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ABSTRACT

Secondary level students learn about product safety in this consumer education learning activity package, which is one of a series. While the majority of products are safe, there remains a small percentage of consumer goods which reach the market place containing a real or potential hazard to the consumer's safety. This module is designed to make the consumer aware that such hazardous products do exist and to present methods of avoiding or combating such products. The package includes instructions for the teacher, suggestions for activities, lists of resource materials, film guides, student activity worksheets, a student resource booklet of readings, and an answer key. Content taught includes the products on the markets that are not necessarily safe, hazards connected with toys and sports equipment, cosmetics, medications, home appliances and furnishings, household products containing chemicals, poisonous food, labeling, and combating unsafe products. Students are involved in many activities. Some examples follow. Students analyze magazine advertisements for toys; interview local coaches of different sports to find out safeguards they take to prevent injuries to their players; make a school display advocating safety rules and guidelines for bike riding; read and discuss consumer, industry, and government publications; analyze films; research and report on various types of food poisonings; take field trips, and review guidelines for cautious consumers to follow for good product safety sense. (Author/RM)

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HEALTH AND THE CONSUMER

SP 013 476

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PRODUCT SAFETY: "An Ounce of Prevention"

Skills for Consumers Applied Today

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Be it known that this consumer education instructional unit has not been endorsed by either the Florida Department of Education or the United States Office of Education; and that the points of view or opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official policy of these agencies.

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Teacher PAL Tips

Welcome, teachers, to this $CAT Consumer Education Teacher PAL*. We hope you will find this a useful resource while you are teaching this subject. Features of this PAL include:

A CONTENT OUTLINE of the Student PAL subject matter to aid you in class discussions.

STUDENT OBJECTIVES which state in behavioral terms the objectives of the Student PAL.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES which you may wish to use as enrichment activities. These include:

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITIES which give suggestions for introducing the topic.

DEVELOPMENTAL ACTIVITIES which give ideas for developing the major concepts in the Student PAL. These suggestions are keyed to each section of the Student PAL and include appropriate resources.

REVIEW ACTIVITIES which give suggestions to guide the culmination of the study.

RESOURCE suggestions which are of three types and coded as follows:

* Materials developed by $CAT and included in this Teacher PAL.

+ Commercially developed materials, available at a cost.

= Commercially developed materials, available free or on a free-loan basis.

ADDRESSES of the producers of all suggested resources as well as others which you may wish to contact for additional ideas and/or materials.

* Packaged Activities for Learning

A SPECIALIZED VOCABULARY which is an alphabetized listing of all the "Passwords" listed in the Student PAL.

FILM DESCRIPTIONS for each film suggested as a resource.

INSTRUCTIONAL AIDS which include Xerox masters for the Test, the Test Answer Sheet, Student Activity Sheets, Film Guides, and Transparencies which you may wish to use in your study.

ANSWER KEYS for the Test, $CAT-developed Activity Sheets, and all pages from the Student PAL requiring student responses.

A STUDENT PAL for your reference.

In addition, some pages in the Student PALs are designed specifically to encourage class discussions, and teacher-led discussions may be necessary to insure student comprehension of the concepts presented. Such pages in the Student PAL for this topic include:

Pages 5-11:	Examining general issues concerning the consumer's "right" to safety
Pages 21,51:	Distinguishing between facts and opinions
Page 28:	Making judgments based on inconclusive evidence
Page 29:	Analyzing advertising and its effects on the consumer
Page 41:	Distinguishing between types of questions
Page 45:	Determining how much consumers are willing to pay for safety
Page 73:	Listing the PRO's and CON's of smoking cigarettes
Page 77:	Determining different levels of consumer action

These features are suggestions only. You, the instructor, know your class best and should feel free to choose those activities and resources most appropriate for your students.

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- Test Answer Sheet
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- Test
- Student Activity Sheets
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Product Safety

Today's consumer buys literally thousands of products yearly ranging from cans of tuna to color TV's. The average consumer may make such purchases with little or no thought given to the safety of the product in question; some consumers assume that if it's on the shelf, the product must be safe.

While the majority of products are "all right," there remains a small percentage of consumer goods which reach the market place containing a real or potential hazard to the consumer's safety. This module is designed to make the consumer aware that such hazardous products do exist and to present methods of avoiding or combating such products.

Content

1. Products on market not necessarily safe

   A. 20,000,000 consumer-product related accidents yearly
      1. CPSC monitors injuries
         a. NEISS
         b. Stairs, ramps, and landings most dangerous
      2. Various hazards present in products
         a. Mechanical
         b. Thermal
         c. Chemical
         d. Electrical

   B. Questions concerning product safety
      1. Type of risk present
         a. Reasonable risk
         b. Voluntary risk
         c. Involuntary risk
      2. Right to safety not clear

   C. Responsibility for product safety
      1. Designer
      2. Manufacturer
      3. Retailer
      4. Government
      5. Consumer

II. Hazards connected with toys and sports equipment

   A. Toy hazards
      1. 700,000 children injured per year

Outline

2. Factors to consider
   a. Child's age
   b. Labels
      (1) Nontoxic
      (2) Flame resistant
      (3) Washable
   c. Obvious hazards
      (1) Sharp points
      (2) Small parts
      (3) Loud sounds
      (4) Darts or missiles
      (5) Glass parts
   d. Assembly requirements
   e. Seal showing electrical safety testing
   f. Instruction necessary for proper use
   g. Necessary supervision
   h. Critical analysis of TV commercials
   i. Exaggerated "educational" claims
   j. Maintenance and storage requirements
3. Banned toys
   1. CPSC
   2. Full refund

B. Sports hazards
   1. 19,000 trampoline-related injuries yearly
   2. 104,000 skate and skateboard-related injuries yearly
   3. 106,000 football-related injuries yearly

a. Need protective equipment
b. Follow rules
c. Need safe playing environment

4. 460,000 bicycle-related injuries yearly
   a. Need for safer bicycles
   b. Need for proper maintenance
   c. Need for safe riding

III. Cosmetics

A. Americans obsessed with youth and beauty
   1. Nearly nine billion spent yearly
   2. Little thought given to safety

B. Hazards
   1. Immediate
      a. Irritations
      b. Allergic reactions
         (1) No product totally safe for all
         (2) Patch-test advisable
         (3) Hypo-allergenic--less likely to cause allergies
   2. Long-term
      a. As much as 60 per cent may enter bloodstream
      b. Unknown long-range hazards
   3. Safety verified by manufacturer
   4. FDA regulates

C. Special considerations required
   1. Acne
      a. Caused by hormone imbalance

b. Products speed skin peeling and kill surface bacteria
c. Medical treatment required for cure

2. Hygiene sprays
   a. Proven hazards
   b. Warning required
3. Moisturizers, creams, and oils
   a. Add protective coat to skin
   b. Will not remove wrinkles
4. Eye products
   a. Cleanliness essential
   b. Never borrow or lend
   c. Throw away after six months
5. Hormone ingredients
   a. Minimal effectiveness
   b. May upset natural chemical balance
6. Hair colorings
   a. May contain toxic ingredients
   b. Must be used with caution
7. Bubble baths
   a. May contain detergents and perfumes
   b. May cause rashes or infections

D. Advertising and packaging
   1. "Made up" words used to sell
   2. Vague claims
   3. Ingredients required to be listed
   4. Brand name more expensive, but not necessarily better
   5. Fancy packaging leads to higher prices

IV. Medications

A. "Pill-happy" Americans

B. Usefulness of many drugs controversial
   1. Cold remedies ineffective
   2. Vitamins not needed

C. Placebo effect

D. Hazards
   1. Drug interaction
   2. Side effects
   3. "Psychoactive" drugs
   4. Synergistic effect

E. Safety rules
   1. Never take unnecessary medicine
   2. Follow directions exactly
   3. Store drugs in original container and as directed on label
   4. Never mix drugs and alcohol
   5. Keep tightly sealed
   6. Don't take medicines in front of children
   7. Keep medicines out of child's reach
   8. Make sure medicines are labeled and dated
   9. Don't take medicine in the dark
   10. Never take medicine prescribed for another
   11. Make sure you understand instructions
   12. Do not mix drugs
   13. Report any adverse reactions
   14. Pregnant women should be extra cautious

15. Carry a card listing personal health facts

V. Home appliances and furnishings

A. Safety questions
   1. Government regulations
      a. Reasonable
      b. Unreasonable
   2. Safety measures may increase price

B. Most hazardous products
   1. Radiation-emitting appliances
      a. Televisions
      b. Microwave ovens
         (1) Cook in prescribed containers
         (2) Interfered with originally designed heart pacemakers
         (3) Possible leakage
            (a) Follow instructions exactly
            (b) Never tamper with door or locks
            (c) Clean frequently
   2. Lawn mowers
      a. 160,000 injuries annually
      b. Redesign could reduce injuries, but raise price
      c. Safety rules
         (1) Careful buying
         (2) Read and follow instructions
         (3) Keep young children away
         (4) Rake before mowing
         (5) Wear shoes
         (6) No smoking

(7) Check grounding, if electrical
(8) Maintain and store properly

3. Stairs and doors
   a. Locate doors with care
   b. Keep stairs free of clutter and adequately lighted
4. Heaters
   a. Fuel-burning
      (1) Have inspected yearly
      (2) Use only with proper ventilation
      (3) Hazards
         (a) Carbon-monoxide poisoning
         (b) Fire
   b. Electric
      (1) Use and maintain with care
      (2) Hazards
         (a) Shock
         (b) Fire
5. Baby furniture
   a. Extra safety features needed
   b. Factors to consider
      (1) 2⅜ inches distance between slats
      (2) Snug-fitting crib mattress, lower than sides
      (3) Nontoxic paint
      (4) Stability
      (5) Covered sharp or pinching parts, smooth edges
      (6) Locking devices
      (7) Restraining straps

(8) Ventilation holes for closed toy boxes
(9) Sturdy materials
(10) Small mesh on play pens

6. Electrical appliances
   a. All dangerous if not used properly
      (1) Read instructions carefully
      (2) Use and install as directed
   b. Make sure properly grounded and use correct voltage
   c. Be extra careful with home and lawn tools

VI. Household products containing chemicals

A. Cleaning products and pesticides
   1. May be toxic
   2. Follow directions for using
   3. Label products clearly
   4. Cap tightly
   5. Learn antidotes
   6. Beware of absorption through skin
   7. Use in well-ventilated area
   8. Don't mix chemicals

B. Aerosol products
   1. May explode when punctured or heated
   2. May harm environment
   3. Store and use with care

C. Flammable liquids
   1. Gasoline greatest cause of accidents
      a. Never carry gas in car trunk
      b. Never siphon gas by mouth

2. Vapors may ignite
   a. Store and use in well-ventilated area away from flame
   b. Store out of children's reach
3. Use charcoal lighter with care

VII. Poisonous food

A. Bacteria--causes of food poisoning
   1. Salmonella
   2. Staphyloccus
   3. Clostridium perfringens
   4. Clostridium botulinum

B. Observe safety rules
   1. Store food properly and only for recommended time
   2. Avoid bulging cans or any "strange-appearing" food
   3. Refrigerate promptly
   4. Avoid cross-contamination
   5. Store fruit juices carefully
   6. Observe sanitation

C. Tips to prevent foodborne illness
   1. Keep hot foods above 150°F.
   2. Keep cold foods below 40-45°F.
   3. Keep raw and cooked foods separated

VIII. Labeling

A. Cautious consumers read labels

B. Clothing labels
   1. Method of care
   2. Flame-retardant qualities

C. Large appliance tags or booklets
   1. Instructions for installation
   2. Directions for use
      a. Proper electrical current
      b. Cleaning requirements
   3. Energy requirements

D. Drug labels
   1. Over-the-counter-medicines
      a. Product identification and purpose
      b. Manufacturer
      c. Net quantity and ingredients
      d. Directions for use
      e. Warnings
   2. Prescription medicines
      a. Directions for use
      b. Usually not precautions

E. Cosmetic labels
   1. Most ingredients
   2. "Hypo-allergenic"
   3. Warnings

F. Food product labels
   1. Ingredients on most foods
      a. In order by weight from largest to smallest
      b. Not required on standardized foods
   2. Net weight
   3. May list nutrients

G. Pesticide and household product labels
   1. Toxicity
   2. Antidote

3. Directions for use
4. Active ingredients of pesticides

H. Toy labels
1. Age group intended for
2. Extras needed
3. Special safety considerations

I. Cigarette labels--warning against health dangers

IX. Combating unsafe products

A. Regulatory agencies
1. Consumer Product Safety Commission
a. Protects against unreasonable risks of injury
b. Assists in evaluating product safety
c. Develops uniform safety standards
d. Promotes research in product safety
e. Enforces acts
(1) Flammable Fabrics Act
(2) Poison Prevention Packaging Act
(3) Federal Hazardous Substances Act
(4) Refrigerator Safety Act
2. Food and Drug Adminsitration
a. Establishes controls over food, medicines, cosmetics, and medical devices
b. Establishes requirements of labeling

c. Protects public from unnecessary exposure to radiation from electronic products
d. Other concerns
(1) Vaccines, serums, and other biological products
(2) Sanitation of milk processing
(3) Shellfish
(4) Restaurant operations
(5) Interstate travel facilities

B. Private testing agencies
1. Underwriter's Laboratory, Inc.
2. American Gas Association
3. Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers

C. Consumer measures
1. Buy wisely
2. Boycott products lacking safety features
3. Report product-related hazards and injuries
4. Be aware that careless or uniformed consumers cause most injuries

Student Ob

1. Given several statements, the student will select the alternative that states a product is not necessarily safe because it is on the market.

2. Given a list of shopping procedures, the student will select the procedure that is not necessary when shopping for children's toys.

3. Given several descriptive statements, the student will identify moisturizing cosmetics as cosmetics which do not remove wrinkles and only coat the skin with a protective film.

4. Given several descriptive statements, the student will select the alternative that conveys the concept that some name brands are more costly because of expensive packaging and advertising.

5. Given several alternatives, the student will identify a "hypo-allergenic" product as a product that is less likely to cause an allergic reaction, but is not foolproof.

6. Given a list of alternatives, the student will identify acne treatments as cosmetics which usually kill only outside bacteria and are not able to treat the cause of acne.

bjectives

7. Given several alternatives, including "hormones," the student will select "hormones" as an ingredient in cosmetics which can disrupt the natural balance of the body's chemistry.

8. Given several statements, the student will identify non-prescription cold medicines as products which contain such small doses of effective drugs that they are of little use.

9. From a list, the student will select the guidelines for safely storing medicine.

10. Given a situation in which a drug has been prescribed, the student will select a statement which states that the medicine should not be shared with other people.

11. From a list, the student will identify microwave ovens and television receivers as home appliances which use radiation in their operation.

12. From a list, the student will identify that a person who wears an originally designed heart pacemaker should avoid microwave ovens.

13. From a list, the student will select the proper procedures for installing electrical applicances.

14. Given several phrases, the student will select the phrase which describes the hazards of using products in aerosol containers.

15. Given several alternatives, the student will identify the proper way to store flammable liquids.

16. From a list, the student will select the phrase which incorrectly describes the hazards connected with cleaning products and pesticides.

17. Given a list of situations, the student will select the situation which does not present a threat of food poisoning.

18. From a list, the student will identify the order for listing the ingredients on a food label.

19. Given several alternatives, the student will identify the information that must be included on labels on food products.

20. Given several alternatives, the student will identify the information that must be included on clothing labels.

21. Given a situation in which there is a safety problem with an appliance, the student will choose from a list the Consumer Product Safety Commission as the agency to contact.

22. Given a situation in which there is a safety complaint about food, cosmetics or medicine, the student will select from a list, the Food and Drug Administration as the agency to contact.

23. Given several alternatives, including "Underwriter's Laboratory," the student will select "Underwriter's Laboratory" as a private agency which tests products for the safety of their electrical parts.

24. Given several alternatives, including "consumer," the student will identify the consumer as the one who is responsible for the majority of product-related injuries.

Introductory Activities

Generalizations	Activities	Resources
There is a need for consumers to be more aware of product safety and to realize that products are not safe simply because they may be on the market.	1. Administer *An Ounce of Prevention* test as a Pre-test.	* Test Teacher PAL
	2. Discuss the "Consumer's Right to Safety." Ask about the consumer's responsibilities and the rights and responsibilities of government and manufacturers.	* Transparency Master #1 Teacher PAL
	3. Ask students to list as many potentially hazardous products as they can, ranking them from the product most likely to be associated with accidental injuries to the least likely. Compare the students' rankings to the NEISS ranking. Also ask students to name products--such as cameras--that are not likely to pose any safety hazard.	* Transparency Master #2 Teacher PAL
	4. Discuss personal accounts of accidents or "near-misses" caused by a purchased product. Try to decide if the product or the user was responsible in each situation presented.	
	5. Discuss the statement by the National Council on Product Safety that modern technology poses a menacing threat to the physical security of consumers.	
	6. Give hypothetical problems and ask students to determine responsibility for safety in each.	* Student Activity Sheet #1 Teacher PAL
		+ Consumers Law: Rights and Responsibilities "The Right to Safety" (Unit II pamphlet) Changing Times Ed. Service

Generalizations	Activities	Resources
	7. Utilize an audio-visual approach to introduce students to hazards associated with commonly used products.	= Bubble, Bubble, Toys and Trouble (16 mm film) = People Make It Happen (16 mm film - Film Guide #1) = Play It Safe (16 mm film - Film Guide #2) = Safety With Flammable Fabrics (slides/tape) = Travels of Timothy Trent (16 mm film - Film Guide #3) Modern Talking Picture Service = For Kids Sake (slides/tape) U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
	8. Have students design a bulletin board depicting product safety and/or hazards.	
	9. Introduce the general problem of consumer product safety, discussing common types of product dangers, ways to reduce injuries, and ways to obtain safety information.	* Transparency Master #3 Teacher PAL + Modern Consumer Ed. -- Supplement One "Product Safety" (color/sound filmstrip) Grolier Educational Corp.

Generalizations	Activities	Resources
	10. Invite a leader from a local consumer advocate group to discuss present concerns for product safety.	Local consumer advocate
	11. Discuss how some agencies that protect the consumer from unsafe products can also help in other areas--such as mail frauds, misleading advertising, or questionable sales techniques.	+ Consumer Protection (slide/tape presentation) Media Resource Center Iowa State University
	12. Ask students to bring in to share with the class newspaper or magazine articles dealing with hazardous products. Discuss the types of risks involved.	+ Newspapers + Magazines

Developmental Activities

Activities	Resources
1. Utilize **1. KNOW HAZARDS CONNECTED WITH TOYS AND SPORTS EQUIPMENT.**	* Student PAL, pp. 13-22
2. Discuss guides to follow when buying toys.	* Transparency Master #4 Teacher PAL + Safe-Toy Environments (color/sound filmstrip) J. C. Penney Co., Inc.
3. Ask students to bring in any toys they may find that present potential danger to young children.	
4. Ask students to bring in newspaper or magazine advertisements for toys. Analyze these in class, looking particularly for safety claims.	+ Newspapers + Magazines
5. Ask students to interview local coaches of different sports to find out safeguards they take to prevent injuries to their players. Discuss their findings in class.	Local coaches
6. Suggest the students make a school display or bulletin board advocating safety rules and guidelines for bike riding and various participation sports.	= Consumer materials (pamphlets, posters, fact sheets) U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Activities	Resources
1. Utilize **2. CAREFULLY BUY AND USE COSMETICS.**	* Student PAL, pp. 23-30 * Transparency Master #5 Teacher PAL
2. Utilize Food and Drug Administration publications in discussions on cosmetic safety.	= "And Now A Word About Your Shampoo" FDA Consumer Reprint #76-5002 = "Cosmetics: The Substances Beneath the Form" FDA Consumer Reprint #77-5007 = "Cosmetics: We Want You to Know What We Know" Publication #74-5004 = "It Pays to Use Cosmetics With Care" Publication #75-5002 = "We Want You to Know About Safe Use of Eye Cosmetics" Publication #75-5003 (pamphlets) Food and Drug Administration
3. Initiate a discussion on vague "promises" made by cosmetic firms. Ask students to write and dramatize commercials for fictitious "wonder cosmetics," emphasizing vague claims. Video-tape, if feasible.	
4. Invite a dermatologist to discuss skin problems and the role of cosmetics in curing them.	Local dermatologist
5. Invite a cosmetologist to discuss potential hazards in using cosmetics such as hair coloring products, mascara, etc.	Local cosmetologist

Activities	Resources
6. Assign students to research and report on the current controversy between the FDA and the hair coloring industry over potentially dangerous chemicals being used.	
1. Utilize **3. ARE EXTRA CAREFUL WHEN USING MEDICATIONS.**	* Student PAL, pp. 31-42
2. Utilize consumer, industry and government publications in discussions on drug abuse.	+ "Are You Fit to Drive?" + "Drinking and Driving" + "Medicines and How to Use Them" + "Psychoactive Drugs" (pamphlets) American Medical Association = "Drug Abuse Information Kit" (information kit) Eli Lilly and Company = "Combating Drug Abuse" FDA Consumer Reprint #74-3022 = "Caution: Darvon Subject to Misuse" FDA Consumer Reprint #79-3085 = "Food and Drug Interations" FDA Consumer Reprint #78-3070 = "The Great Amphetamine Debate" FDA Consumer Reprint #78-3071 (pamphlets) = "Mini-Lessons" (teaching unit) = "Mixing Medicines? Have a Care!" FDA Consumer Reprint #76-3020 (pamphlets) Food and Drug Administration

Activities	Resources
	▪ "Painkillers: Their Uses and Dangers" FDA Consumer Reprint #78-3060 ▪ "A Primer on Medicines" FDA Consumer Reprint #74-3014 ▪ "Selecting Your Own Medicines" Publication #76-3025, #76-3026 (pamphlets) + "Tranquilizers: Use, Abuse, and Dependency" FDA Consumer (October 1978) ▪ "We Want You to Know About Adverse Reactions to Medicines" Publication #74-3005 ▪ "We Want You to Know About Medicines Without Prescriptions" Publication #74-3010 ▪ "We Want You to Know About Prescription Drugs" Publication #78-3055 (pamphlets) Food and Drug Administration ▪ Consumer information about drugs Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association
3. Ask students to survey over-the-counter drugs, particularly checking the packages for warnings and possible side effects. Make sure various types of drugs are chosen for this comparison survey. Discuss the results in class. Does the cost of the drug have any effect on the amount of labeling information?	* Student Activity Sheet #2 Teacher PAL
4. Discuss possible consequences of drug interaction. List precautions consumers can take to avoid drug interactions.	* Transparency Masters #6-7 Teacher PAL
5. Have students make posters listing and illustrating proper rules for using medication., Display posters upon completion.	

Activities	Resources
6. Discuss contraception. Look at the advantages and disadvantages, side effects and health factors to consider for each method.	+ "What You Should Know About the Pill" (pamphlet) American Medical Association = "Contraception: Comparing the Options" Publication #78-3069 = "Informing Women About the 'Pill'" FDA Consumer Reprint #77-3034 (pamphlets) = "Informing Women About IUD's" FDA Consumer Reprint #78-4010 = "Women and 'The Pill'" FDA Consumer Reprint #78-3024 (pamphlets) Food and Drug Administration
7. Review guidelines to follow when taking medication.	* Student Activity Sheet #3 Teacher PAL * Student Activity Sheet #4 Teacher PAL
1. Utilize **4. RECOGNIZE POTENTIAL HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH HOME APPLIANCES AND FURNISHINGS.**	* Student PAL, pp. 43-52
2. Discuss appliances in addition to those mentioned in the PAL that might pose safety problems.	

Activities	Resources
3. Ask students to bring in instruction booklets that came with their families' appliance purchases. Discuss the various information given, noting directions for installation and use and any safety guidelines.	
4. Assign students to research consumer magazines to see if they contain any articles or product descriptions that deal with the topic of safety. (Perhaps a library period could be scheduled for this research.) Discuss the findings.	
5. Invite an appliance sales person or repair person to discuss proper care of appliances, including installation and maintenance.	Local appliance dealer
6. Review guidelines to follow when using electrical appliances.	* Transparency Master #8 Teacher PAL
1. Utilize **5. UNDERSTAND DANGERS OF CHEMICALS CONTAINED IN HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS.**	* Student PAL, pp. 53-60
2. Ask students to survey all the potentially dangerous chemicals in their homes, noting the various types of information found on the product labels. Discuss the results.	* Student Activity Sheet #5 Teacher PAL * Transparency Master #9 Teacher PAL
3. Invite a firefighter to discuss the dangers of flammable liquids and proper methods of storing and using them.	Local firefighter
4. Have a group of students research and orally present recent findings on the controversy surrounding aerosols.	

Activities	Resources
1. Utilize **6. KNOW DANGERS OF BAD FOOD.**	* Student PAL, pp. 61-66
2. Invite a nutritionist to discuss the hazards of "bad" food.	Local nutritionist
3. Have students work in pairs or groups to research and report on various types and/or recent cases of food poisonings.	
4. Ask students to check on the food storage practices in their homes. Discuss hazards located and ways to improve food storage safety.	+ "Foodborne Illness: The Consumer's Role in its Prevention" (pamphlet) American Medical Association = "Can Your Kitchen Pass the Food Storage Test?" FDA Consumer Reprint #74-2052 = "Safe Handling of Foods in the Home" FDA Papers Reprint #73-2002 = "Some Questions and Answers About Canned Foods" FDA Consumer Memo #74-2045 (pamphlets) Food and Drug Administration = "Keeping Food Safe to Eat" (pamphlet) United States Department of Agriculture

Activities	Resources
1. Utilize **7. KNOW INFORMATION TO BE FOUND ON PRODUCT LABELS.**	* Student PAL, pp. 67-74
2. Ask students to bring in labels from a variety of products, such as clothing, food products, medicines, and cigarettes. List information found on the labels of each type of product and note any omissions. Encourage students to find labels for products not discussed in this PAL.	
3. Discuss the importance of flame-resistant clothing.	+ Your Clothing Can Burn (16 mm film) Alfred Higgins Productions, Inc
1. Utilize **8. KNOW HOW TO COMBAT UNSAFE PRODUCTS.**	* Student PAL, pp. 75-84
2. Invite a representative from the local branch of the Consumer Product Safety Commission to discuss the agency's function. If there is not a CPSC branch in your area, ask a representative from any local consumer protection agency to discuss the consumer's rights and means of combating unsafe products.	
3. Assign students to research and report on the formation and activities of various agencies concerned with product safety. Include local and state as well as federal agencies and also private testing agencies.	* Transparency Master #10 Teacher PAL
4. Assign students to research and prepare a listing of legislation designed to protect the consumer. Include legislation on all levels--local, state, and federal.	

Activities	Resources
5. If there is a product-testing agency in your area, invite a representative to discuss how they test products for safety. 6. Assign students to write a letter of complaint about any unsafe product. 7. Assign students to prepare a complete list of the products that are advertised in a current issue of some popular magazine. Opposite the name of each product indicate whether there is any seal, label, certified test, or testimonial used to indicate the standard of quality of the product. Indicate the specific proof that is given. Discuss the findings.	

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Review Activities

Generalizations	Activities	Resources
The student will review the increasing consumer interest in the area of product safety.	1. Arrange a tour to visit a product-testing laboratory.	
	2. Ask interested students to compile a directory of consumer protection agencies in your area.	
	3. Assign students to research and compare the Consumer Movement of the Seventies to the similar, but yet distinctly different, Consumer Movement of the Thirties.	
	4. Utilize an audio-visual approach to show various approaches consumer groups have used to achieve results.	+ Consumer Complaints: The Right Way (16 mm film) Alfred Higgins Productions, Inc. + The Consumer Offensive (16 mm film) Benchmark Films, Inc.
	5. Review guidelines for cautious consumers to follow for good product safety sense.	* Student Activity Sheet #6 Teacher PAL
	6. Ask students to describe their concerns with future product safety problems and appropriate goals and actions to overcome them.	* "Personal Commitment" Student PAL, p. 85
	7. Ask students to determine responsibilities of consumers, government, and manufacturers in the area of product safety.	* "Self-Evaluation" Student PAL, p. 86

Generalizations	Activities	Resources
	8. Debate: "The ultimate answer to consumer safety is an educated and intelligent consumer." S. John Byington, Chairman Consumer Product Safety Commission	
	9. Review the terms used in the study of product safety.	* Student Activity She #7 Teacher PAL
	10. Review the student objectives for this module.	* Student Activity She #8 Teacher PAL
	11. Administer *An Ounce of Prevention* test as a Post-test.	* Test Teacher PAL

General Resources – Addresses

Alfred Higgins Productions, Inc.
9100 Sunset Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90069

American Medical Association
535 North Dearborn Street
Chicago, IL 60610

Benchmark Films, Inc.
P.O. Box 315
Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417

Changing Times Education Service
1729 H St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Eli Lilly and Company
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20852

Grolier Educational Corporation
845 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Health Insurance Institute
277 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10017

J. C. Penney Co., Inc.
Educational Relations Department
1301 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10019

Media Resource Center
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50010

Modern Talking Picture Service
5000 Park Street North
St. Petersburg, FL 33709

Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association
1155 Fifteenth St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Washington, D.C. 20207

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Nutrition Program
Consumer and Food Economics Institution
Agricultural Research Service
Hyattsville, MD 20782

Specialized Vocabulary

ACNE	A skin condition in which the oil glands become clogged and inflamed, often causing pimples
AEROSOL	A container in which gas under pressure dispenses liquid in the form of a spray or foam
AMPHETAMINE	A drug used to diminish appetite and to overcome fatigue
ANTIBIOTIC	A drug used to stop the growth of microorganisms
ANTIDOTE	A treatment to counteract poison
ANTIHISTAMINE	A drug used to relieve symptoms of allergic reactions
BACTERIA	One-celled microorganisms that may cause disease
BAN	To forbid the sale of a particular product
BARBITURATE	A drug used to induce sleep
BOTULISM	Disease that may be caused by poison or toxin in improperly preserved foods; characterized by muscular paralysis, including disturbances of visions and breathing
CARBON MONOXIDE	A very poisonous gas; odorless, tasteless, and colorless
CHLOROFLUOROCARBON	A propellant used in aerosols

COMBUSTIBLE	Inflammable
CPSC	Consumer Product Safety Commission; federal agency created in 1972 to regulate risks of injuries associated with consumer products
CORROSIVE	A substance which causes another substance to wear
COSMETIC	Anything we rub, pour, sprinkle, or spray on our bodies to improve our appearance
DEPRESSANT	Agent that reduces bodily functional activity
DERMATOLOGIST	A doctor specializing in treating skin problems
DESIGNER	One who makes plans or patterns for something such as a product
DOSAGE	The exact amount of a substance (such as medicine) to be taken
DRUG	Any substance that has an effect upon the body or mind
DRUG INTERACTION	The resulting action of two or more drugs taken at the same time
DRY CLEAN	To clean with something other than water, often a chemical preparation
ENVIRONMENT	Total surroundings
FLAME RESISTANT	Something which inherently or through treatment is designed to retard burning
FLAMMABLE	Capable of catching fire easily and burning quickly

FDA	The Food and Drug Administration; federal agency under the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare which is responsible for the enforcement of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act
GROUND	A body which is designed to conduct electricity away from one object to another to limit the voltage of a circuit
HALLUCINATION	Perception of objects with no reality; may occur in response to drugs
HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE	Substance that can cause substantial injury or illness through customary or reasonable use -- such as a toxic or flammable substance; also refers to a toy or article intended for use by children that presents an electrical, mechanical, or thermal hazard
HORMONES	Chemicals formed in the body for specific purpose
HYPO-ALLERGENIC	Not containing known allergy-causing substances
IGNITE	To set on fire
INDUCE	To bring about; to cause
INTERSTATE	Between or among states
LABEL	Something attached to a product for the purpose of identifying it
LEGIBLE	Easy to read
MANUFACTURER	A person or factory which makes articles for sale
MASCARA	A cosmetic designed to darken or lengthen the eyelashes

MICROWAVE	An electromagnetic wave
NET WEIGHT	Weight of the product without the container
NUTRIENT	One of the more than 50 known elements of food which promotes bodily growth and development and regulates bodily processes
OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUG	A drug which can be purchased without a prescription
OZONE LAYER	An atmospheric layer of gas which absorbs ultraviolet radiation
PACEMAKER	A mechanical device inserted into the body to regulate the heart beat
PARALYSIS	Loss of ability to move or feel
PESTICIDE	A substance designed to kill insects and other pests
PHARMACIST	A person licensed to dispense drugs
PLACEBO	Substance that is not a drug, (such as a sugar pill) but possibly can relieve symptoms because of patient's belief in its effectiveness
POTENCY	The quality of being powerful or effective
PRESCRIPTION DRUG	A drug which can be obtained only by written orders from a doctor
PRETEST	A preliminary check of a product before it is offered for sale
RADIATION	Rays sent out from atoms and molecules as they undergo internal change
RANCID	Type of spoilage; having a bad taste or smell

RETAILER	One who sells to the public
SANITATION	Use of hygienic measures
SIPHON	To transfer liquid through a tube from one container to another
STANDARD	A set criterion of quality
STIMULANT	Agent that increases bodily functional activity
TOXIC SUBSTANCE	Substance which can cause injury or illness when ingested, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin
TRANQUILIZER	A drug used to suppress emotional reactions
UNIFORM	Always the same; not varying
VAPOR	Gas released from a liquid or solid
VARICOSE VEINS	Abnormally swollen or dilated veins
VENTILATE	To expose to fresh air
VOLTAGE	Amount of electrical potential

Film Descriptions

BUBBLE, BUBBLE, TOYS AND TROUBLE (10 minutes) - Modern Talking Picture Service, 1976

Produced by the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, this film evaluates what is "good" and "bad" in children's toys. Child actors are seen playing with toys which are appropriate to their ages. A witch, making the "world's worst" toys with small parts, sharp points and edges, and toxic substances is also featured.

CONSUMER COMPLAINTS: THE RIGHT WAY (11 minutes) - Alred Higgins Productions, Inc., 1976

Throughout history, man has needed to rely on others for products and services. What, then, can you do when products and services are not what they should be? A consumer, when wronged, can get results from a legitimate complaint by going about it the right way.

CONSUMER OFFENSIVE (THE) (26 minutes) - Benchmark Films, Inc., 1975

The old expression "you can't fight city hall," is wrong. The individual American consumer, cynical about government and industry's indifference to their needs, is discovering how to get better products for less money, protect their environment, and improve the quality of their life--by joining local and national consumer organizations. Over the past 75 years, the consumer movement has lobbied for the passage of consumer protection laws, boycotted and demonstrated, tested and rated brand products, and organized consumer groups that do everything from run food co-ops to vote for legislation against unsafe nuclear plants. Since the 1960's, Ralph Nader, assisted by his young volunteers, has shown how much one man can do to improve life for all consumers.

PEOPLE MAKE IT HAPPEN (23 minutes) - Modern Talking Picture Service, 1976 FILM GUIDE #1

Produced by the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, this film explores some of the major causes of dangerous accidents, including careless consumer behavior. The film shows how behavior influences the ways in which products are utilized and safety measures that can be taken to avoid product-related accidents. It uses colorful animation, songs and humorous skits to present the five safety steps that should be followed in the life of every consumer product: selection, use, maintenance, storage, and disposal.

PLAY IT SAFE (11 minutes) - Modern Talking Picture Service, 1976 FILM GUIDE #2

The film goes behind-the-scenes, taking viewers into the locker room of the mythical "National Stadium." Here, they'll meet the "coach" of the grounds maintenance crew, who is running his "team" through a locker room review of safety tips for power mowers and hedge trimmers. As the coach examines both the strong and weak points of each "team member's" performance, he points to mower and trimmer dangers, and discusses appropriate safety measures. His pep talk covers such power mower hazards as contact with rotating blades, propelled objects, overturning...and such hand trimmer dangers as the changing of hand positions when a trimmer is running, moving branches out of the way while cutting, and cord-related accidents. Produced by the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

TRAVELS OF TIMOTHY TRENT (10 minutes) - Modern Talking Picture Service, 1976 FILM GUIDE #3

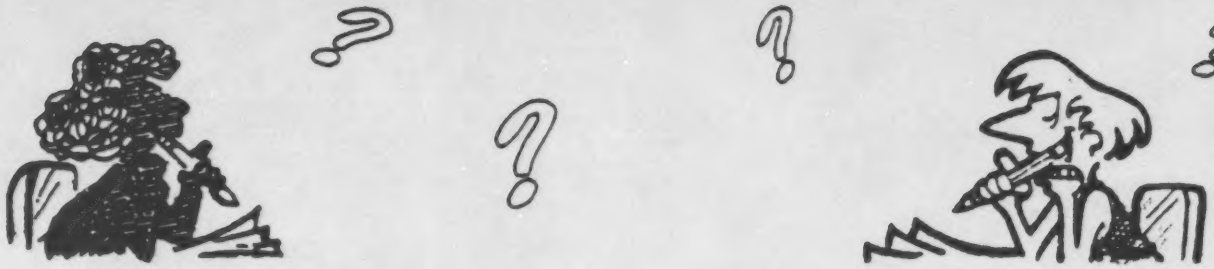
Timothy Trent is a beautiful child. A strapping boy about two years old, he's into everything. Everything he finds goes into his mouth--just like any other kid his age. The film follows Timothy on his travels while Mom isn't watching carefully. Timothy finds and plays with a variety of "fun" things: poisonous fluids, cleaners, soaps. Only the safety caps keep him out of trouble. But his luck finally runs out. Fortunately, Timothy has just a brush with death, but it could have been a lot worse. Produced by the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, the film give many tips on "poison-proofing" our homes.

YOUR CLOTHING CAN BURN! (14 minutes) - Alfred Higgins Productions, Inc., 1971

Every year many people die or are seriously disfigured because of clothing fires, and doctors are concerned because burns are very difficult to treat. Laboratory experiments demonstrate the many factors involved in the burning of clothing. We see that some commonly worn fabrics are very flammable, while others are more resistant to fire. Procedures to be taken if clothing does catch on fire are demonstrated.

INSTRUCTIONAL AIDS

CLASSROOM TEACHERS ARE AUTHORIZED TO REPRODUCE THIS ORIGINAL COPY FOR USE IN THEIR CLASSROOMS.



An Ounce of Prevention

CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER FOR EACH STATEMENT OR QUESTION.

1. When a product reaches the market, the American consumer should be aware that the product
   A. may be hazardous to the consumer.
   B. is foolproof and safe because of consumer pressure controls.
   C. has been tested by the manufacturer and perfected in all ways.
   D. has undergone rigid governmental tests as to its safety and durability.

2. When shopping for a child's toy, you should follow each of the procedures below EXCEPT
   A. inspect for sharp points.
   B. if painted, insist on nontoxic paints.
   C. determine if the toy is an "educational toy".
   D. determine the age level for which the toy was made.

3. Costly moisturizing cosmetics
   A. usually are an excellent buy.
   B. can be used for removing wrinkles.
   C. are always more effective than cheaper brands.
   D. coat the skin with a protective film just as cheaper brands do.

4. When buying cosmetics, keep in mind
   A. ingredients such as mink oil add potency to the product.
   B. expensive name brands are always a better buy in the long run.
   C. cosmetics with hormones are better for you than cosmetics without hormones.
   D. you are often paying more for a brand name because of costly packaging and advertising.

5. Hypo-allergenic cosmetics
   A. cause fewer allergic reactions than other cosmetics.
   B. keep users from having allergic reactions.
   C. are safer than other cosmetics.
   D. are being recalled by the FDA.

6. Acne treatments are cosmetics that
   A. are being recalled by the FDA.
   B. do not help with acne problems at all.
   C. correct the hormone imbalance that causes acne.
   D. only kill outside bacteria and cause the skin to peel.

7. The balance of the body's chemistry may be upset when cosmetics contain
   A. hormones.
   B. lubricants.
   C. a pH factor.
   D. acne medication.

8. Many non-prescription cold remedies
   A. should be taken daily to prevent catching cold.
   B. are very effective if used on a continuous basis.
   C. work better than prescription remedies and always cost less.
   D. contain such small doses of effective drugs that they are of little use.

9. When storing medicine, to prevent accidents and help ensure effectiveness
   A. store in a brightly lighted area.
   B. keep the cap tightly sealed.
   C. store in a heated, ventilated area.
   D. transfer the medicine into a child-proof container.

10. The doctor prescribed a drug for you and now Joe, a good friend, has symptoms of a similar illness.
   A. You should not share your medicine.
   B. It is probably safe to let Joe take it because he is not allergic to eggs.
   C. It would have been safe to let Joe take the medicine if he had been a member of your family.
   D. Let Joe take only small doses of the medicine at first to see if an allergy exists.

11. Which of the home appliances below are capable of emitting radiation during operation?
    A. Flourescent lamps
    B. Heaters and radios
    C. Microwave ovens and TV's
    D. Frost-free refrigerators

12. If you wear an originally designed heart pacemaker, it is advisable to avoid
    A. mowing the lawn.
    B. microwave ovens.
    C. eating canned products.
    D. refrigerators with icemakers.

13. When installing electrical appliances
    A. shut off the electricity to your whole house until finished.
    B. have a service person do the installation.
    C. use a plastic-handled screw driver.
    D. ground them when instructed to.

14. A hazard of using products in aerosol containers is that the
    A. container could explode if punctured or heated.
    B. product could emit toxic gases if not stored properly.
    C. aerosol could lose its carbonation when stored in a warm place.
    D. you could become physically addicted to the chemicals in the spray.

15. Because many common liquids such as gasoline, kerosene, and paint are so highly flammable, you should always
    A. store them in tightly-capped, clearly-labeled glass containers.
    B. store and use them in well-ventilated areas away from open flame.
    C. use them in small enclosed working spaces to prevent the spread of toxic fumes.
    D. all of the above.

16. Which of the following statements about cleaning products and pesticides is FALSE?
    A. They often contain toxic substances.
    B. They are usually inadequately labeled.
    C. Many containers now have child-proof caps.
    D. Many products can be absorbed through the skin.

17. Which situation below does NOT present a threat of food poisoning?
    A. The orange juice is in the silver pitcher.
    B. The steak has been in the refrigerator for 3 days.
    C. The hamburger meat has been in the refrigerator for 3 days.
    D. The bulging can squirted when it was opened, but it smells OK.

18. Ingredients in most food products must be listed on the label by
    A. amount, greatest to smallest.
    B. cost, most expensive to cheapest.
    C. nutritional value, greatest to smallest.
    D. none of the above.

19. Labels on non-standardized food products must tell the
    A. weight and ingredients.
    B. ingredients and nutrients.
    C. vitamins supplied by daily serving.
    D. all of the above.

20. Labels on clothing must tell
    A. about the life expectancy of the garment.
    B. the color (dye lot) of the garment.
    C. the net weight of the garment.
    D. how to care for the garment.

21. Sandra's daughter was injured when the brakes of her new bike failed. Sandra should report this safety problem to the
    A. Underwriters' Laboratory.
    B. Federal Safety Commission.
    C. Food and Drug Administration.
    D. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

22. Several complaints of skin rashes caused by Elmo's Hair Dye have been recorded. The agency who should receive the complaints is the
    A. Underwriters' Laboratory.
    B. Federal Safety Commission.
    C. Food and Drug Administration.
    D. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

23. Which of the agencies below is a private agency that tests products for the safety of their electrical parts?
    A. Underwriters' Laboratory
    B. Federal Safety Commission
    C. Food and Drug Administration
    D. Consumer Product Safety Commission

24. Which of the following is responsible for the great majority of product-related injuries?
    A. The retailer
    B. The consumer
    C. The advertiser
    D. The manufacturer

NAME _____

CLASS _____

DATE _____

An Ounce of Prevention

1 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ	13 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ
2 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ	14 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ
3 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ	15 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ
4 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ	16 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ
5 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ	17 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ
6 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ	18 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ
7 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ	19 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ
8 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ	20 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ
9 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ	21 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ
10 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ	22 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ
11 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ	23 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ
12 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ	24 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ

79-B37

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

REACT TO EACH OF THE FOLLOWING ACCIDENTS BY CIRCLING THE LETTER WHICH BEST DESCRIBES YOUR OPINION.

1. Mary was delighted when she received a new 10-speed bicycle for her birthday, but her joy soon turned into agony. While riding with her friends, she caught her pants leg in the chain, causing her to fall and break her leg.

   Your reaction is:

   A. Mary should have made a wiser choice of clothing for bike riding.
   B. The chain should have been properly guarded so that this kind of accident could not have happened.
   C. Safety standards should be established on such obvious hazards.

2. Mrs. Johnson was warming up next to the space heater before breakfast one cold morning. The hem of her housecoat caught fire, and Mrs. Johnson received burns on her legs before she managed to smother the fire.

   Your reaction is:

   A. Mrs. Johnson should have been more careful.
   B. All space heaters should be designed so that ignition of a garment is impossible.
   C. Space heaters with an exposed flame should be outlawed.

3. Ted and Jack were cleaning up the yard and were finished except for trimming the hedge. Eager to finish, Jack suggested that they simply mow the hedge with the lawn mower. They lifted the lawn mower to cut the hedge, and Ted received a severe slash from the rotary blade.

   Your reaction is:

   A. Ted and Jack were crazy to try such a thing.
   B. The designer should anticipate incorrect use of the product and design lawn mowers to accommodate misuse.
   C. Regulations should require strict standards on the design of lawn mowers to eliminate this danger.

4. While Monica was making a carrot salad in the blender, the top came off the jar and gave her a bad bruise when a carrot chunk hit her eye.

   Your reaction is:

   A. Monica probably operated the blender incorrectly.
   B. The blender must obviously have a design flaw--the top doesn't fit on the container correctly.
   C. There should be more rigid specifications on the manufacture of blenders.

5. Mark and Dave were curious about why the ammonia bottle had this warning on it: "Important: Do not mix with chlorine type bleaches or other household chemicals." They decided to see what would happen if they mixed these substances. Both boys ended up in oxygen tents in the hospital--fortunate to still be alive.

   Your reaction is:

   A. The boys should not have violated the label warnings.
   B. The warning labels only stimulate children's curiosity and should not appear on consumer products.
   C. Such potentially dangerous products should not be on the market.

Student Activity Sheet #2
Product Safety

A DRUG SURVEY:

CHOOSE ONE TYPE OF OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICINE, SUCH AS ASPIRIN, COLD REMEDIES, ANTACIDS, AMPHETAMINES, ETC. GO TO ANY STORE SELLING THAT PARTICULAR TYPE OF MEDICINE AND NOTE THE INFORMATION GIVEN ON THE PRODUCT LABEL OR PACKAGING OF SEVERAL BRANDS OF THE DRUG CHOSEN. TRY TO INCLUDE A STORE BRAND IN YOUR SAMPLE.

GENERAL TYPE OF OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUG: _____

	BRAND A	BRAND B	BRAND C	BRAND D
Brand Name				
Purpose				
Dosage				
Warnings Given				
Safety Precautions				
Possible Side Effects				
Ingredients				
Manufacturer				
Size				
Cost				
Unit Price				

Birth Control Pills

For those of you interested in the benefits and potential dangers of birth control pills, you may want to complete the following form.*

BENEFITS OF "THE PILL"	RISKS INVOLVED IN USING "THE PILL"

Alternative methods of accomplishing the OBJECTIVES of using "THE PILL:"

Alternative #1 Risks:

Alternative #2 Risks:

Alternative #3 Risks:

Alternative #4 Risks:

BASED UPON THE ABOVE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF EACH ALTERNATIVE, which approach to birth control is potentially the

Most DANGEROUS? _____

The SAFEST? _____

* Consult with health care professionals (e.g., nurses, doctors, etc.) in your community to help you complete this form.

YOUR MEDICINE SHELF

READ EACH QUESTION OR STATEMENT CAREFULLY. THEN CIRCLE THE BEST ANSWER.

1. Brand Z headache tablets contain aspirin plus two other ingredients and cost $1.49 for a bottle containing 100 tablets. Brand Y headache tablets cost $ .78 for 100 tablets that contain only aspirin. Which is probably the better buy?

   a. Brand Z b. Brand Y

2. Because he has a two-year-old daughter, Bill Moore keeps all the family's medicines on an open shelf above the bathroom lavatory. Is this a safe place for him to keep the medicines?

   a. Yes b. No

3. Jack has a bottle of a prescription drug in his medicine cabinet. The label reads:

   598325 3/8/77
   Jack Hurts
   Caps. Achromycin V. 250 m.g.
   30

   One capsule four times a day

   Exp. 1978 Dr. Get-Well-Soon

   Jack has the same symptoms two years later, and the doctor prescribed the same medicine. Fortunately, Jack still has some capsules. Should he take them?

   a. Yes b. No

4. Roxanne's druggist typed the following label on a prescription:

   604398 4/23/79
   Roxanne Feels-bad
   Caps. Polycillin, 250 m.g.
   25

   Sig. 1 cap t.i.d.

   Dr. Prescriber

   Should Roxanne ask the druggist to retype the label?

   a. Yes b. No

5. Irv Oh-so-bad feels like his name! He has the same symptoms his wife had four months ago. Should Irv take the prescription drug the doctor gave his wife?

   a. Yes b. No

6. Is there any drug that can cure a common cold?

   a. Yes b. No

7. You see an ad for an over-the-counter sleeping tablet that reads:

"AT LAST! The new SLEEPY-TIME, with 'Snooze-12,' used by doctors themselves!"

What do you think "Snooze-12" is?

a. Probably a new fantastic wonder drug that has just been discovered
b. Probably a new fancy name for an ingredient that other sleeping pills contain, too

8. Lan Limpy feels sick. Dr. I'll-fix-you-up tells him to buy some tablets of a drug called "Feel-better-fast." The doctor says, "You can buy this at any drug store, but you must use this to get it." He hands Dan a piece of paper with instructions for the pharmacist. "Feel-better-fast" is an example of

a. a prescription drug b. an over-the-counter drug

9. Bill Doesn't-like-to-be-sick swallows ten vitamin pills every morning to make sure he doesn't catch the flu. Will the vitamins do what Bill wants them to do?

a. Yes b. No

10. Michelle was very upset after learning about financial problems of her parents. Her doctor prescribed a form of tranquilizers to calm her down. Should she tell her doctor that she was already taking a couple sleeping aids each night to help her sleep?

a. Yes b. No

11. Mary was involved in an automobile accident and was rushed to the emergency room of the nearest hospital. The attending doctor determined that Mary was not seriously injured, but she does need some medication. Should Mary tell the doctor that she may be pregnant?

a. Yes b. No

12. Dave has been taking medication prescribed by his doctor to relieve pain caused by a football injury. Today he experienced short periods of dizziness after taking his pills each time. Should he continue taking the pills without consulting his doctor?

a. Yes b. No

13. Jackie has been taking diet pills to help her lose a little weight. Lately, however, she finds she just can't think very clearly. Could the diet pills be affecting her mental functioning?

a. Yes b. No

Student Activity Sheet #5
Product Safety

A HOME SURVEY

Potentially *DEADLY* products can be found in every household. Examine the various cleaning aids, pesticides, flammable liquids, and aerosol products in your own home. READ the information found on the label and summarize the different points below. Most of these products are clearly labeled with dangers and cautions. WE, the consumers, must take the time to read all that fine print to perhaps avoid a needless tragedy!

TYPE OF PRODUCT	BRAND	DIRECTIONS FOR USE	DANGERS	CAUTIONS/ WARNINGS	ANTIDOTE	CHILD-PROOF FEATURES

CAUTIOUS CONSUMERS

CAUTIOUS CONSUMERS KNOW THAT "AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION" WILL PREVENT MANY ACCIDENTS. EXAMINE THE SITUATIONS BELOW. WRITE YES IF "AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION" IS BEING USED; WRITE NO IF THE CONSUMER IS NOT BEING SAFETY-CONSCIOUS.

_____ 1. Marianne is going out to dinner with friends. It is raining when they reach the restaurant, and her makeup is smeared. Marianne borrows mascara, eye shadow, and face powder to freshen her makeup.

_____ 2. Don was very anxious and upset. He was going to try out for a professional sports team. To calm him down, Don's mother gave him one of the tranquilizers her doctor had recently prescribed for her.

_____ 3. Eric mows lawns to earn money to buy clothes for school. Before mowing a yard, he rakes it thoroughly.

_____ 4. Grace is cleaning her oven with household ammonia. When she can't remove an exceptionally stubborn stain, Grace decides to add some bleach to the cleaning solution.

_____ 5. Jackie was preparing toast for breakfast and noticed occasional sparks coming from the toaster's cord connection. She immediately turned off and unplugged the toaster.

_____ 6. Bill is late for football practice. As he hops on his bike, he notices the seat is loose, but he just doesn't have time to fix it.

_____ 7. Ted drove the gang to Ed's house for a party. After downing a few beers, Ted drank a cup of coffee so he'd be an alert driver and could drive his riders home safely.

_____ 8. Mr. Bennett is a traveling salesman. Because he often travels at night and sometimes has difficulty buying gasoline. he always carries a 5-gallon can of gasoline in his car trunk for emergencies.

_____ 9. Mrs. Smith wants to color the gray hairs making her look older. Before using the hair coloring product, she reads the instructions very carefully.

_____10. Max was chopping potatoes in his blender. The potatoes at the bottom became slushy, and the blades couldn't reach those at the top. So Max simply poked his fingers into the blender to push down the food.

_____11. Mrs. Carter has arthritis and takes several aspirin a day so she'll feel like taking care of her two-year-old grandson. (She keeps him during the day.) Because it is difficult for her to open the "child-proof" caps, she keeps her aspirin in a regular-top bottle.

_____12. To keep cool on those hot July days, Maria bought a new fan. When she unpacked it, Maria discovered it came with a 3-prong plug. Maria didn't have any 3-prong receptacles in her house, but managed to plug it into an extension cord that she could then plug into her receptacles.

CAUTIOUS CONSUMER SAYS:

| | | |

An Ounce of Prevention

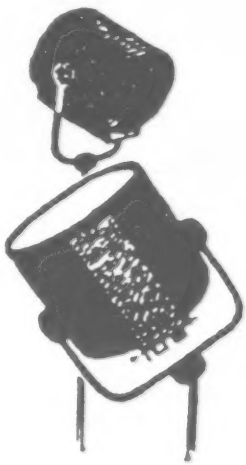
NOW THAT YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE ACTIVITIES IN THE PRODUCT SAFETY PAL, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

1. Identify a precaution concerning products on the market.
2. Recognize procedures for shopping for children's toys.
3. Identify characteristics of moisturizing cosmetics.
4. Recognize characteristics of name brand products.
5. Recognize limitations of hypo-allergenic products.
6. Identify limitations of acne treatments.
7. Recognize a hazard with hormones in cosmetics.
8. Recognize limitations of non-prescription cold medicines.
9. Identify how to safely store medicine.
10. Recognize a safety measure to follow with prescription medicine.
11. Identify home appliances which could emit radiation in their operation.
12. Recognize a precaution for wearers of pacemakers.
13. Identify procedures for installing electrical appliances.
14. Recognize a hazard of using aerosol products.
15. Identify procedures for installing electrical appliances.
16. Recognize hazards of cleaning products and pesticides.
17. Identify potential threats of food poisoning.
18. Identify the order of ingredients on food labels.
19. Identify the information required on food labels.
20. Identify the information required on clothing labels.
21. Recognize a responsibility of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
22. Recognize a responsibility of the Food and Drug Administration.
23. Recognize a service of the Underwriters' Laboratory.
24. Identify who is responsible for the majority of product-related injuries.

film guide: People Make It Happen

This film explores some of the major causes of accidents, including careless consumer behavior. Notice how behavior influences the ways in which products are used and safety measures that can be taken to avoid product-related accidents.

As you watch this film, or when it is completed, answer the following questions:



1. Can you think of any time you misused a product in such a way as to cause an accident? How could you have avoided the accident?

2. Consider a common product that most of us use each day--the television set. Give an example of how each of the following factors are important for safe TV viewing.

   SELECTION:

   USE:

   MAINTENANCE:

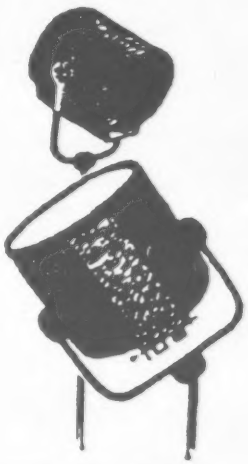
   STORAGE:

   DISPOSAL:

film guide: Play It Safe

This film goes behind-the-scenes, taking you into the locker room of the mythical "National Stadium." Listen carefully as the "coach" of the grounds maintenance crew runs his "team" through a locker room review of safety tips for power mowers and hedge trimmers.

As you watch this film, or when it is completed, answer the following questions:



1. In mower safety, there are three factors to keep in mind. What are they? Discuss the importance of each.

2. The two types of power mowers are reel and rotary. Which is more popular? Why? Which is more dangerous? Why?

3. Name three precautions to take when operating a power mower or electric hedge trimmers.

4. Why is it so important to consult the operator's manual before operating any power tool?

film guide: Travels of Timothy Trent

Timothy Trent is a beautiful child. A strapping boy about two years old, he's into everything--and everything he finds goes into his mouth. Watch what all could--and does--happen to Timothy while his mother is not watching him closely.

As you watch this film, or when it is completed, answer the following questions:

1. Give reasons for not taking medicine in front of a child.

2. Do you know anyone who has been the victim of any type of poisoning? What was it like? How could it have been prevented?

3. List at least five dangerous household substances.

4. Children are mimics--they tend to imitate adults. Discuss the ramifications of this in regard to poisons and medicines. Why are "child-proof" packages so important?

CONSUMER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

to be safe

to be informed

to be able to choose

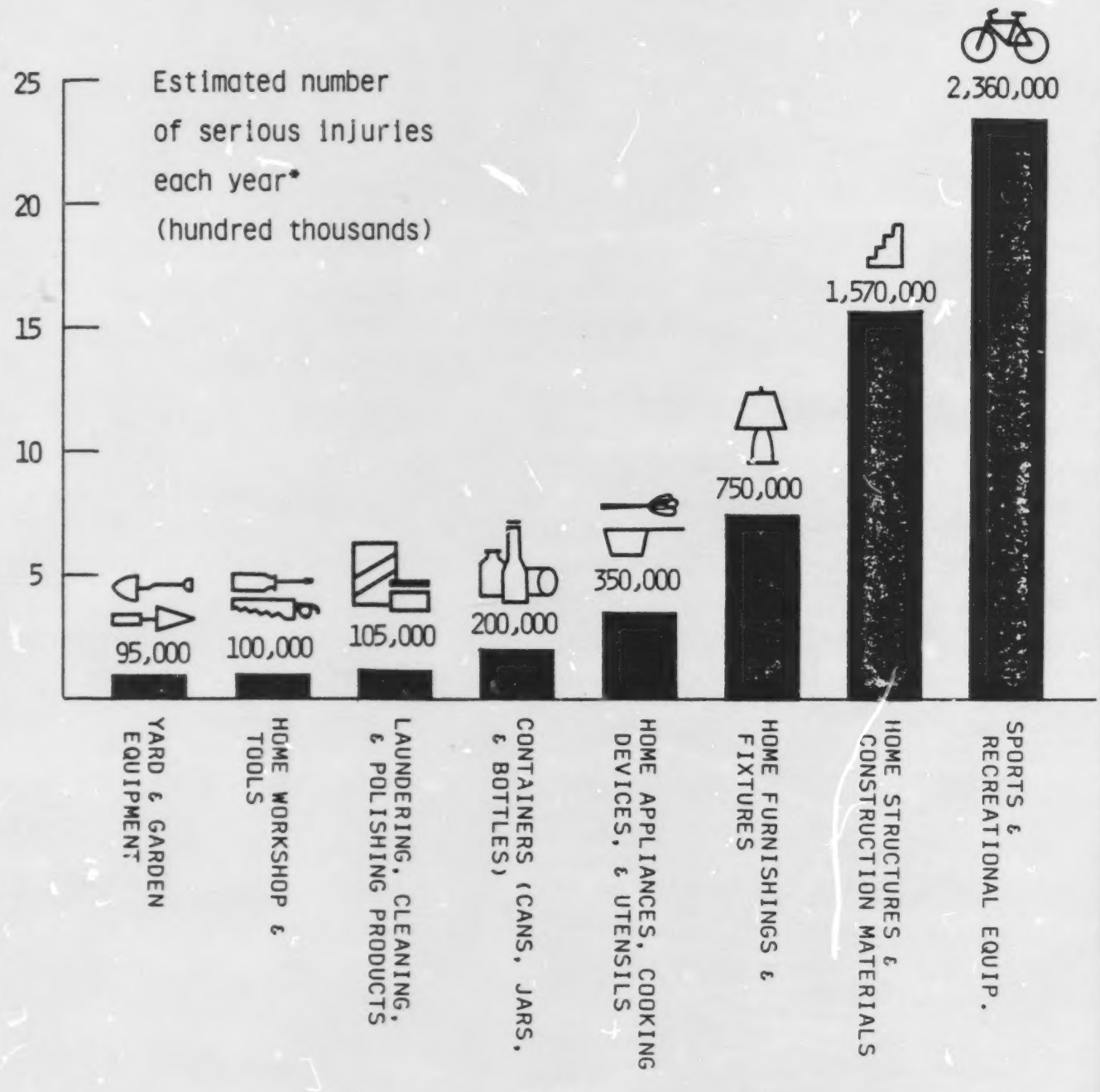
to be heard

The consumer has "the right to safety - to be protected against the marketing of goods which are hazardous to health or life."

John F. Kennedy
March, 1962

Transparency Master #1
Product Safety

The Awesome Toll: Injuries from Household Products



* 1978 NEISS estimates of injuries requiring emergency room treatment; chart does not include injuries from all types of household products

CAUTIOUS CONSUMERS:

1. KNOW HAZARDS CONNECTED WITH TOYS AND SPORTS EQUIPMENT.
2. CAREFULLY BUY AND USE COSMETICS.
3. ARE EXTRA CAREFUL WHEN USING MEDICATIONS.
4. RECOGNIZE POTENTIAL HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH HOME APPLIANCES AND FURNISHINGS.
5. UNDERSTAND DANGERS OF CHEMICALS CONTAINED IN HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS.
6. KNOW DANGERS OF BAD FOOD.
7. KNOW INFORMATION TO BE FOUND ON PRODUCT LABELS.
8. KNOW HOW TO COMBAT UNSAFE PRODUCTS.

Think Toy Safety!

Read labels.

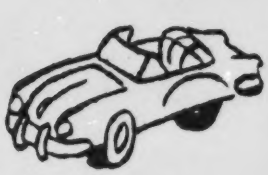
Remember child's age.

Avoid obviously dangerous toys.

Assemble toys correctly.

Check toys periodically.

Teach safe usage.



Supervise play.

Cosmetics:

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW TO USE THEM SAFELY

1. Read labels carefully. Follow all directions exactly. Heed all warnings given.

2. Always wash hands before applying cosmetics. Keep all cosmetic containers clean.

3. Apply cosmetics, especially eye makeup, carefully.

4. Watch for allergic reactions. Immediately stop using any product that irritates, itches, or burns.

5. Never allow children to play with cosmetics.

6. Report any product that causes any kind of undesirable reaction.

Transparency Master #5
Product Safety

DRUG INTERACTION

1. Never combine prescriptions with over-the-counter drugs, unless approved by your doctor.

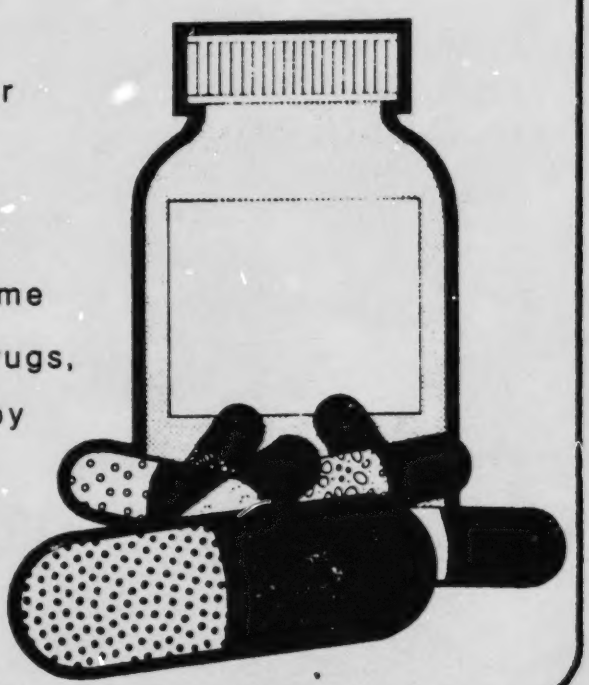
2. Always tell your doctor what prescription medicines and over-the-counter remedies you have recently taken.

3. Follow dosage directions exactly.

4. Always read precautionary labels and heed any warnings.

5. Never take medicine prescribed for someone else.

6. Be especially careful to not consume alcohol when taking any kind of drugs, unless given permission to do so by your doctor.



Old Mother Hubbard Went to the Cupboard

Old Mother Hubbard went to the cupboard, To get her poor stomach a pill, But when she got there, she found bottles to spare, From other times that she'd been ill.

There were capsules and potions and drugs for emotions, . . .

Prescribed by a dozen physicians, Some were her brother's, some borrowed from others, Who had almost the same conditions.

"I'll throw it all out," she said with a shout, "My doctor's advice I will follow, I'll take only those pills prescribed for my ills, And use my head before I swallow."

Follow Electrical Safety Rules

1. Buy safety-tested appliances.
2. Read instructions.
3. "Ground" properly.
4. Check periodically for worn cords, loose connections, etc.
5. Keep electrical parts away from water.
6. Use carefully. Be wary of cord placement.

Why is each safeguard important?

Transparency Master #8
Product Safety

Danger. . . Poison!

PRECAUTIONS - READ BEFORE USING.

POISON: Contains sodium hydroxide (caustic soda-lye). Corrosive: Causes eye and skin damage; may cause blindness. Keep Drain-Free away from eyes, skin and clothing. Don't get it on you. ALWAYS KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN. Store on high shelf or in locked cabinet. Harmful or fatal if swallowed.

FIRST AID: EYES - Immediately flood with water for at least 20 minutes. Then seek medical care immediately.

INTERNAL - If swallowed, do not induce vomiting. Give large quantities of water or milk. Then seek medical care immediately.

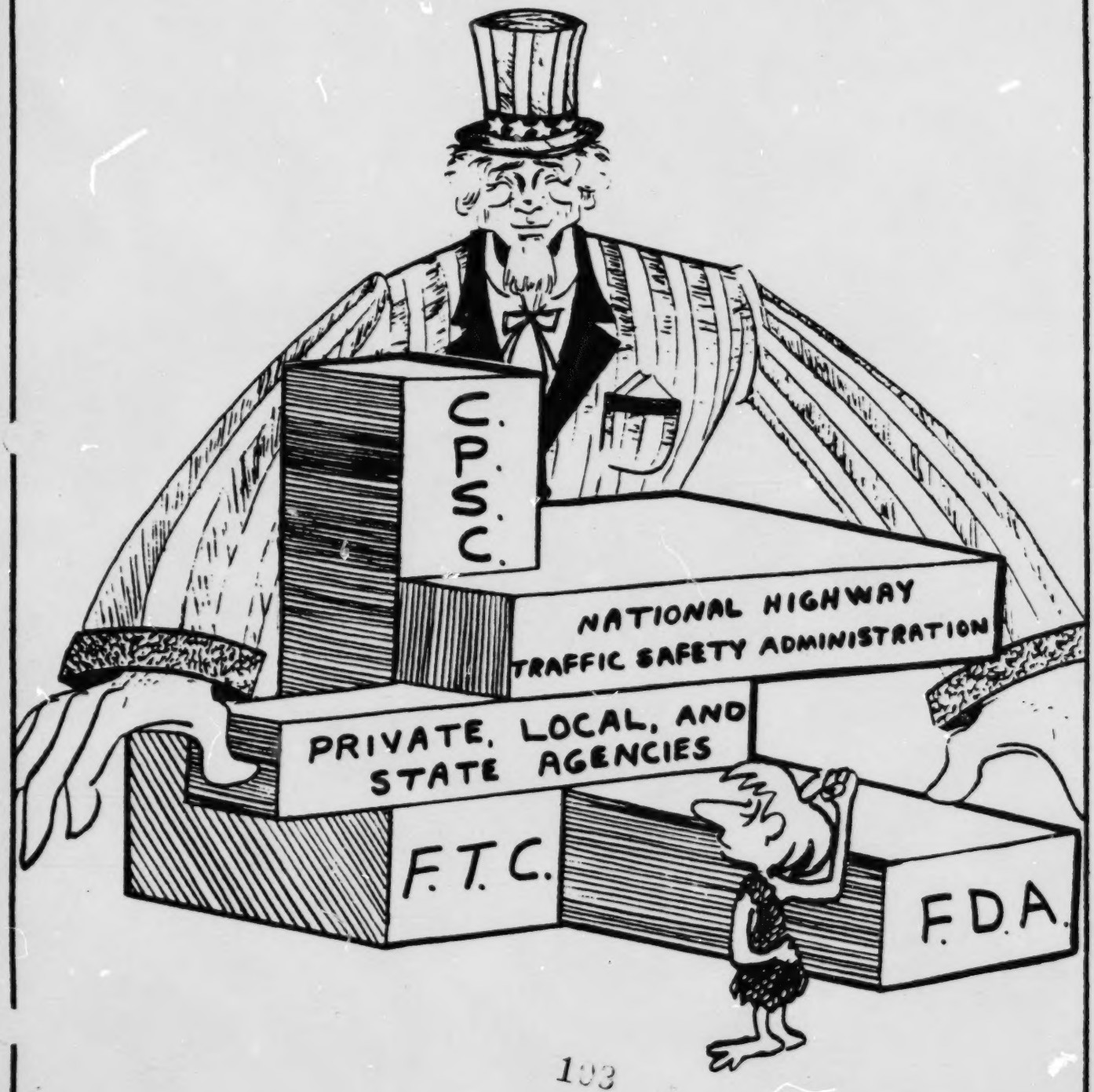
EXTERNAL - Flood with water for at least 15 minutes. Then seek medical care immediately.

CALL PHYSICIAN AT ONCE.

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.

Transparency Master #9
Product Safety

Consumers ARE Protected:



Answer Keys

CLASSROOM TEACHERS ARE AUTHORIZED TO
REPRODUCE THIS ORIGINAL COPY FOR USE
IN THEIR CLASSROOMS.

NAME _____

CLASS _____

DATE _____

An Ounce of Prevention

1 ● Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ	13 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ ●
2 Ⓐ Ⓑ ● Ⓓ	14 ● Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ
3 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ ●	15 Ⓐ ● Ⓒ Ⓓ
4 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ ●	16 Ⓐ ● Ⓒ Ⓓ
5 ● Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ	17 Ⓐ ● Ⓒ Ⓓ
6 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ ●	18 ● Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ
7 ● Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ	19 ● Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ
8 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ ●	20 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ ●
9 Ⓐ ● Ⓒ Ⓓ	21 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ ●
10 ● Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ	22 Ⓐ Ⓑ ● Ⓓ
11 Ⓐ Ⓑ ● Ⓓ	23 ● Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ
12 Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ Ⓓ	24 Ⓐ ● Ⓒ Ⓓ

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

REACT TO EACH OF THE FOLLOWING ACCIDENTS BY CIRCLING THE LETTER WHICH BEST DESCRIBES YOUR OPINION.

1. Mary was delighted when she received a new 10-speed bicycle for her birthday, but her joy soon turned into agony. While riding with her friends, she caught her pants leg in the chain, causing her to fall and break her leg.

   Your reaction is:

   A. Mary should have made a wiser choice of clothing for bike riding.
   B. The chain should have been properly guarded so that this kind of accident could not have happened.
   C. Safety standards should be established on such obvious hazards.

2. Mrs. Johnson was warming up next to the space heater be[illegible]akfast one cold morning. The hem of her housecoat caught fire, and [illegible] received burns on her legs before she managed to smother the fi[illegible]

   Your reaction is:

   A. Mrs. Johnson should have b[illegible]
   B. All space heaters shoul[illegible] a garment is impossible.
   C. Space heaters wi[illegible]

3. Ted and Jack were clean[illegible] for trimming the hedge. Eager to fi[illegible] the hedge with the lawn mower. The[illegible] and Ted received a severe slash[illegible]

   Yo[illegible]

   [illegible]uch a thing.
   [illegible]e incorrect use of the product and
   [illegible]ommodate misuse.
   [illegible]uire strict standards on the design of lawn
   [illegible] this danger.

4. While Monica w[illegible] carrot salad in the blender, the top came off the jar and gave her a [illegible]ise when a carrot chunk hit her eye.

   Your reaction is:

   A. Monica probably operated the blender incorrectly.
   B. The blender must obviously have a design flaw--the top doesn't fit on the container correctly.
   C. There should be more rigid specifications on the manufacture of blenders.

5. Mark and Dave were curious about why the ammonia bottle had this warning on it: "Important: Do not mix with chlorine type bleaches or other household chemicals." They decided to see what would happen if they mixed these substances. Both boys ended up in oxygen tents in the hospital--fortunate to still be alive.

   Your reaction is:

   A. The boys should not have violated the label warnings.
   B. The warning labels only stimulate children's curiosity and should not appear on consumer products.
   C. Such potentially dangerous products should not be on the market.

LOOK OVER YOUR RESPONSES. IF YOU CHOSE "A" MOST FREQUENTLY, THEN YOU PROBABLY TEND TO FEEL THAT CONSUMERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY. MARKING "B" INDICATES THAT YOU BELIEVE THAT THE MANUFACTURER OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR SAFETY. A FREQUENT "C" RESPONSE SUGGESTS THAT GOVERNMENT MUST PLAY THE LEADING ROLE IN GUARANTEEING SAFE CONSUMER PRODUCTS. MIXED RESPONSES SHOW THAT YOU MAY FEEL THAT EVERYONE--INCLUDING GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY, AND THE CONSUMER--BEARS SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRODUCT SAFETY.

Birth Control Pills

For those of you interested in the benefits and potential dangers of birth control pills, you may want to complete the following form.*

BENEFITS OF "THE PILL"	RISKS INVOLVED IN USING "THE PILL"
ANSWERS WILL VARY	ANSWERS WILL VARY

Alternative methods of accomplishing the OBJECTIVES of using "THE PILL:"

Alternative #1 Risks: ANSWERS WILL VARY

Alternative #2 Risks: ANSWERS WILL VARY

Alternative #3 Risks: ANSWERS WILL VARY

Alternative #4 Risks: ANSWERS WILL VARY

BASED UPON THE ABOVE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF EACH ALTERNATIVE, which approach to birth control is potentially the

Most DANGEROUS? ANSWERS WILL VARY

The SAFEST? ANSWERS WILL VARY

* Consult with health care professionals (e.g., nurses, doctors, etc.) in your community to help you complete this form.

YOUR MEDICINE SHELF

READ EACH QUESTION OR STATEMENT CAREFULLY. THEN CIRCLE THE BEST ANSWER.

1. Brand Z headache tablets contain aspirin plus two other ingredients and cost $1.49 for a bottle containing 100 tablets. Brand Y headache tablets cost $ .78 for 100 tablets that contain only aspirin. Which is probably the better buy?

   a. Brand Z (b.) Brand Y

2. Because he has a two-year-old daughter, Bill Moore keeps all the family's medicines on an open shelf above the bathroom lavatory. Is this a safe place for him to keep the medicines?

   a. Yes (b.) No

3. Jack has a bottle of a prescription drug in his medicine cabinet. The label reads:

> 598325 3/8/77
> Jack Hurts
> Caps. Achromycin V. 250 m.g.
> 30
>
> One capsule four times a day
>
> Exp. 1978 Dr. Get-Well-Soon

   Jack has the same symptoms two years later, and the doctor prescribed the same medicine. Fortunately, Jack still has some capsules. Should he take them?

   a. Yes b. (No)

4. Roxanne's druggist typed the following label on a prescription:

> 604398 4/23/79
> Roxanne Feels-bad
> Caps. Polycillin, 250 m.g.
> 25
>
> Sig. 1 cap t.i.d.
>
> Dr. Prescriber

   Should Roxanne ask the druggist to retype the label?

   (a.) Yes b. No

5. Irv Oh-so-bad feels like his name! He has the same symptoms his wife had four months ago. Should Irv take the prescription drug the doctor gave his wife?

   a. Yes (b.) No

6. Is there any drug that can cure a common cold?

   a. Yes (b.) No

7. You see an ad for an over-the-counter sleeping tablet that reads:

"AT LAST! The new SLEEPY-TIME, with 'Snooze-12,' used by doctors themselves!"

What do you think "Snooze-12" is?

a. Probably a new fantastic wonder drug that has just been discovered
(b.) Probably a new fancy name for an ingredient that other sleeping pills contain, too

8. Dan Limpy feels sick. Dr. I'll-fix-you-up tells him to buy some tablets of a drug called "Feel-better-fast." The doctor says, "You can buy this at any drug store, but you must use this to get it." He hands Dan a piece of paper with instructions for the pharmacist. "Feel-better-fast" is an example of

(a.) a prescription drug b. an over-the-counter drug

9. Bill Doesn't-like-to-be-sick swallows ten vitamin pills every morning to make sure he doesn't catch the flu. Will the vitamins do what Bill wants them to do?

a. Yes (b.) No

10. Michelle was very upset after learning about financial problems of her parents. Her doctor prescribed a form of tranquilizers to calm her down. Should she tell her doctor that she was already taking a couple sleeping aids each night to help her sleep?

(a.) Yes b. No

11. Mary was involved in an automobile accident and was rushed to the emergency room of the nearest hospital. The attending doctor determined that Mary was not seriously injured, but she does need some medication. Should Mary tell the doctor that she may be pregnant?

(a.) Yes b. No

12. Dave has been taking medication prescribed by his doctor to relieve pain caused by a football injury. Today he experienced short periods of dizziness after taking his pills each time. Should he continue taking the pills without consulting his doctor?

a. Yes (b.) No

13. Jackie has been taking diet pills to help her lose a little weight. Lately, however, she finds she just can't think very clearly. Could the diet pills be affecting her mental functioning?

(a.) Yes b. No

CAUTIOUS CONSUMERS

CAUTIOUS CONSUMERS KNOW THAT "AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION" WILL PREVENT MANY ACCIDENTS. EXAMINE THE SITUATIONS BELOW. WRITE YES IF "AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION" IS BEING USED; WRITE NO IF THE CONSUMER IS NOT BEING SAFETY-CONSCIOUS.

NO 1. Marianne is going out to dinner with friends. It is raining when they reach the restaurant, and her makeup is smeared. Marianne borrows mascara, eye shadow, and face powder to freshen her makeup.

NO 2. Don was very anxious and upset. He was going to try out for a professional sports team. To calm him down, Don's mother gave him one of the tranquilizers her doctor had recently prescribed for her.

YES 3. Eric mows lawns to earn money to buy clothes for school. Before mowing a yard, he rakes it thoroughly.

NO 4. Grace is cleaning her oven with household ammonia. When she can't remove an exceptionally stubborn stain, Grace decides to add some bleach to the cleaning solution.

YES 5. Jackie was preparing toast for breakfast and noticed occasional sparks coming from the toaster's cord connection. She immediately turned off and unplugged the toaster.

NO 6. Bill is late for football practice. As he hops on his bike, he notices the seat is loose, but he just doesn't have time to fix it.

NO 7. Ted drove the gang to Ed's house for a party. After downing a few beers, Ted drank a cup of coffee so he'd be an alert driver and could drive his riders home safely.

NO 8. Mr. Bennett is a traveling salesman. Because he often travels at night and sometimes has difficulty buying gasoline, he always carries a 5-gallon can of gasoline in his car trunk for emergencies.

YES 9. Mrs. Smith wants to color the gray hairs making her look older. Before using the hair coloring product, she reads the instructions very carefully.

NO 10. Max was chopping potatoes in his blender. The potatoes at the bottom became slushy, and the blades couldn't reach those at the top. So Max simply poked his fingers into the blender to push down the food.

NO 11. Mrs. Carter has arthritis and takes several aspirin a day so she'll feel like taking care of her two-year-old grandson. (She keeps him during the day.) Because it is difficult for her to open the "child-proof" caps, she keeps her aspirin in a regular-top bottle.

NO 12. To keep cool on these hot July days, Maria bought a new fan. When she unpacked it, Maria discovered it came with a 3-prong plug. Maria didn't have any 3-prong receptacles in her house, but managed to plug it into an extension cord that she could then plug into her receptacles.

CAUTIOUS CONSUMER SAYS:

B	E		S	A	F	E	T	Y		C	O	N	S	C	I	O	U	S!
1	2		3	4	5	2	6	7		8	9	10	3	8	11	9	12	3

FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW WITH THE CORRECT RESPONSES. THEN WRITE THE CORRESPONDING LETTERS ABOVE THE NUMBERED BLANKS TO FIND OUT CAUTIOUS CONSUMER'S SLOGAN.

1. THE CPSC HAS THE AUTHORITY TO B A N (1) REALLY DANGEROUS PRODUCTS.
2. H Y P O - A L L E R G E N I C (7) COSMETICS ARE LESS LIKELY TO CAUSE ALLERGIES. 3. A TOY FINISHED WITH NON-POISONOUS PAINT MAY BE LABELED N O N T O X I C (11). 4. P R E S C R I P T I O N DRUGS CAN ONLY BE PURCHASED WITH ORDERS FROM A DOCTOR, WHILE O V E R - T H E - C O U N T E R DRUGS CAN BE OBTAINED MORE EASILY. 5. THE USE OF A E R O S O L (3) PRODUCTS MAY DAMAGE THE O Z O N E LAYER OF THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE. 6. DRUG I N T E R A C T I O N (6) CAN RESULT WHEN TWO OR MORE DRUGS ARE TAKEN AT THE SAME TIME. 7. TO AVOID SHOCKS, YOU SHOULD ALWAYS G R O U N D ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES WHEN INSTRUCTED TO DO SO. 8. C A R B O N M O N O X I D E (8) IS A VERY TOXIC GAS GIVEN OFF BY BURNING CHARCOAL AND FUEL-BURNING APPLIANCES. 9. LABELS ON MOST FOOD PRODUCTS MUST TELL THE I N G R E D I E N T S (2) AND N E T WEIGHT. 10. A HAZARD OF BOTH COLOR TELEVISIONS AND MICROWAVE OVENS IS R A D I A T I O N (4). 11. B O T U L I S M (12) IS THE MOST DEADLY FOOD POISONING DISEASE. 12. U N D E R W R I T E R'S L A B O R A T O R Y (9) TESTS THE ELECTRICAL SAFETY OF A PRODUCT'S DESIGN. 13. PRODUCTS WHICH ARE PROVEN DANGEROUS BUT ARE NOT YET BANNED MAY BE REQUIRED TO HAVE A W A R N I N G (10) ON THE LABEL. 14. GASOLINE IS THE CAUSE OF MOST ACCIDENTS INVOLVING F L A M M A B L E (5) LIQUIDS.

LIST SOME WAYS YOU TAKE RISKS TO GET BENEFITS:

Risks I take	***Benefits I get***
ANSWERS WILL VARY.	ANSWERS WILL VARY.

Why does it make sense to take RISKS? Two concepts help us deal with this:

Reasonable Risks: Life is not risk-free, and we know it. We are willing to take REASONABLE risks to get certain benefits. What risks are reasonable is a matter of debate. Some people are willing to take greater chances than others.

Voluntary Risks: We know that life has its risks. To help us decide what risks are REASONABLE for us, we need to know what the RISKS involved in products and activities are. That is, we need to know the RISKS and voluntarily decide to take the risks or not take them. We do NOT want to be forced to take risks because we don't know the risks (INVOLUNTARY RISKS).

CAN YOU LIST SOME ACTIVITIES WHERE YOU MAY TAKE INVOLUNTARY RISKS?

ANSWERS WILL VARY.

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DISCUSS THE RISKS NOTED BELOW:

1) You need to visit the dentist, and your dentist is on the fourth floor. To get to her office, you must use the elevator.
   ANSWERS WILL VARY.

2) To get to work at your new job, you have to drive over a bridge built and maintained by the State Department of Transportation.
   ANSWERS WILL VARY.

3) Little Mary is always building something in the back yard -- a rock garden, a brush pile for wildlife, etc. You decide to purchase and give her a bright red wagon for her birthday -- to assist in her building projects.
   ANSWERS WILL VARY.

4) You have three days off from work and want to visit your great grandmother in another city. To do that, you need to fly on Smooth Flight Airlines.
   ANSWERS WILL VARY.

5) You are concerned about your personal attractiveness. You think that using mascara may assist in making you more attractive as a person.
   ANSWERS WILL VARY.

6) Consumers in your region want electricity. The company supplying the electric energy generates it by burning coal in large quantities.
   ANSWERS WILL VARY.

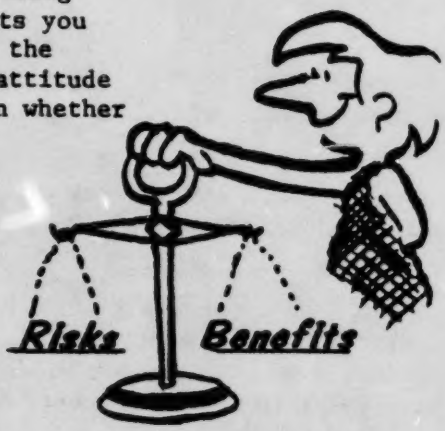
7) Consumers in your region want the electric energy at a low cost, and the utility company thinks that nuclear generating plans produce the lowest cost electric power. They are about to build a nuclear plant to serve your area.
   ANSWERS WILL VARY.

8) You are buying a new car. You want reasonable gas mileage, so you are going to buy a compact car.
   ANSWERS WILL VARY.

Divide the class into small groups to study each of the above consumer decisions. WHAT ARE THE INVOLUNTARY RISKS involved in each of the above consumer decisions? WHAT ARE THE VOLUNTARY RISKS involved in each of the above? In your judgment, are the VOLUNTARY and INVOLUNTARY RISKS REASONABLE -- given the benefits?

Reasonable Risks:

You have studied the risks involved in using a product. You have studied the benefits you get from using the product. Based upon the balance of risks and benefits and your attitude toward taking risks, you make a decision whether to use the product or not to do so.



Voluntary and Involuntary Risks:

Taking a certain medicine or using a certain product involves the possibility of certain side effects. You know about the possible side effects and decide to use the medicine. THAT IS A VOLUNTARY RISK.

You see a product advertised which will provide certain benefits. No one tells you about the possible side effects. Since you are not a scientist, you could not know the side effects. Buying and using that medicine is an INVOLUNTARY RISK.

Consumer education is needed to help us: 1) decide what reasonable risk is when buying things (goods and services), and 2) decide what involuntary risks we are willing to accept in goods and services offered for sale in the marketplace.

LIST THREE PRODUCTS YOU PURCHASED LAST WEEK:

1. _____ ANSWERS WILL VARY. _____ _____

2. _____ _____ _____

3. _____ _____ _____

⇧⇧⇧⇧⇧⇧ ⇧⇧⇧⇧⇧⇧

VOLUNTARY RISKS FOR EACH:

INVOLUNTARY RISKS FOR EACH:

Position Taking

A. Read the following quotation, then fill in the POSITION TAKING form which follows:

> "The legitimate object of government is to do for the people what needs to be done, but which they cannot by individual effort do at all, or do so well, for themselves."
>
> --Abraham Lincoln

MY POSITION (agree or disagree with Abe Lincoln): _____

ANSWERS WILL VARY.

SUPPORTING REASONS:

1. ANSWERS WILL VARY.
2. _____
3. _____

B. Read the following assertion, then fill in the POSITION TAKING form which follows:

> "Government has no business banning toys with sharp edges. It is up to the consumer to be smart enough to buy safe toys and to refuse to buy unsafe toys."

MY POSITION (agree or disagree with above statement): _____

ANSWERS WILL VARY.

SUPPORTING REASONS:

1. ANSWERS WILL VARY.
2. _____
3. _____

Public or Private Responsibilities

Below we have listed situations involving consumer product safety. Decide which are matters for consumers to deal with on their own (PRIVATE), and which are issues where government ought to be involved (PUBLIC). Be ready to justify your decisions in class discussion.

PRIVATE	PUBLIC	
ANSWERS WILL VARY.	_____	1. You own a new car. To get better gas mileage, you disconnect some of the pollution control equipment.
_____	_____	2. You own a new car. To save money, you drive six people to work with you in a car pool each day. They pay you 50¢ a day. You drive each day.
_____	_____	3. You own a new car. To get what you feel is better gas mileage, you strain your engine driving around in 4th gear.
_____	_____	4. You own a new car. To save money you join a car pool. You drive one day a week, others drive the other days.
_____	_____	5. You own a new car. To reduce weight and get better gas mileage, you strip off everything you don't use--seat belts, back seat, hub caps, and rear bumper.
_____	_____	6. You own a new car. To meet a payment, you sell the spare tire.
_____	_____	7. You own a new car. To improve its looks, you repaint it in several red tones, add chrome strips, and realign a set of rear lights.
_____	_____	8. You own a new car. To improve its "looks," you sell the old tires, and add new undersized tires.
_____	_____	9. You own a new car. To save money you buy as little insurance as you can to cover you in accidents. Actually, you don't want to buy any insurance! You'll take your chances!
_____	_____	10. You own a new car. To save money the manufacturer put in a smaller engine than advertised. You didn't notice this earlier, when purchasing the car.

For more practice, turn back to the consumer situations on page 7. Which of these is a matter of personal responsibility? Which is a matter of public (Government) responsibility? Why? What makes the difference?

DISTINGUISHING FACT AND OPINION

In a discussion we hear people make statements which they want us to accept as TRUE! They want us to believe something. To know if we should accept what they tell us, we first have to know if they are making a statement which is a fact or an opinion. Look at these two examples:

1. Nuclear energy is very dangerous as a way to get electric power.

2. Nuclear generating plants are being constructed, today, in every region of the United States.

The first statement offers us an interpretation of the facts. It is a statement of OPINION. The second statement offers us a factual assertion (whether it is true or false is another matter).

READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS. WRITE F BEFORE THOSE WHICH ARE FACTUAL STATEMENTS (WHETHER TRUE OR FALSE). WRITE *O* BEFORE STATEMENTS OF OPINION.

__O__ 1. "Careful toy selection and proper supervision are the best ways to insure child safety with toys."

__O__ 2. "When selecting a bicycle, be aware of safety features."

__F__ 3. "On electrical toys, the Underwriter's Laboratory seal shows that the toy has been tested for safety."

__F__ 4. "BB guns can shoot a BB fifty yards."

__F__ 5. "Government has the legal power to ban toys which are found unsafe."

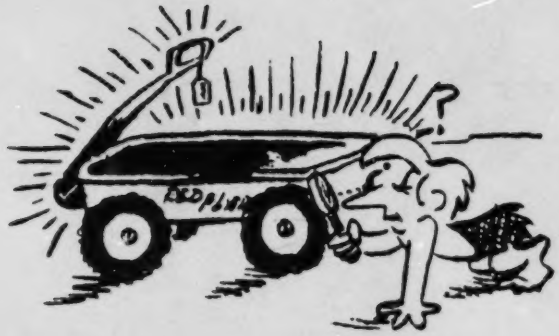
__O__ 6. "Newspapers always report on unsafe toys."

__F__ 7. "109,682 toys were found unsafe in the United States last year."

__O__ 8. "Educational toys are good for children."

__O__ 9. "Three out of four parents are careful toy shoppers, as judged by the research of the Consumer Product Safety Commission."

__O__ 10. "Football is a hazardous sport."



1. KNOW HAZARDS CONNECTED WITH TOYS AND SPORTS EQUIPMENT.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

1. Pretend that you are a careful and thoughtful parent of three children under ten years of age. LIST your ideas about WHAT MAKES FOR A GOOD TOY. That is, list the criteria that a toy would have to live up to, before you would call it a GOOD TOY.

   ANSWERS WILL VARY.

2. Still pretending that you are the parent, LIST the criteria that a TOY would have to live up to in order for you to call it a SAFE TOY.

   ANSWERS WILL VARY.

3. What is your favorite sport? What are some things you can do to avoid injuries while you participate in that sport?

   ANSWERS WILL VARY.

4. The Consumer Product Safety Commission has developed safety regulations that must be met by all new bicycles sold in the U.S. All bicycles must be reflectorized. All hand brakes must pass a pressure test ensuring that the average person will be able to operate them. All bicycle frames must be able to pass certain durability (strength) tests. These regulations apply to all bikes imported into the U.S., as well as those manufactured here, after May 11, 1976.[5]

   What do you think of this kind of government regulation? Do you think the Federal Government should be able to regulate for safety? Why or why not?

   ANSWERS WILL VARY.

   Children aged 5 - 14 are victims of 66% of today's bicycle accidents.[5] How can young people be taught bicycle safety? Whose responsibility is it? What kind of bicycle safety education is being given through the schools to children in your school district? What could <u>you</u> <u>do</u> to help?

   ANSWERS WILL VARY.

Open and Closed Cases

Many times we get some evidence and draw a conclusion. We think that the evidence we have is conclusive. But how much evidence do we need to make a firm judgment? Mary sees John step on one ant, and she labels him a "killer" and a "nature-hater!" One pair of shoes is unsatisfactory, so we never buy any shoes from that store again.

How much evidence do we need to shape a final decision in which we will have confidence? Let's take bubble bath. What do we know about the effects which bubble bath users call GOOD? What do we know about the effects which bubble bath users might consider BAD?

"GOOD EFFECTS?"	"BAD EFFECTS?"
Enhancing Self-esteem and Self-assurance Relaxing ANSWERS WILL VARY.	Skin Irritation and Rash Infection and Inflammation ANSWERS WILL VARY.

You can add to this list of evidence. Do you have enough information to make a judgment (A CLOSED CASE)? Or is the evidence about YOUR using bubble bath still inconclusive (AN OPEN CASE)?

RISK: Some people will make judgments on less evidence than others. It depends upon their attitude toward RISK-TAKING. Some people will take greater risks than others to get what they want. Hold a class discussion on bubble baths. See if you can detect differences in RISK-TAKING among your fellow students.

2. CAREFULLY BUY AND USE COSMETICS.

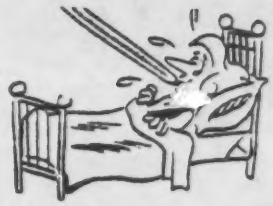
TRUE	FALSE		
____	✓	1.	An absolutely foolproof method of avoiding rashes caused by cosmetics is to buy only those brands which are "hypo-allergenic."
✓	____	2.	Acne is caused by an imbalance of hormones, and severe cases are most effectively treated by a dermatologist.
____	✓	3.	There is no longer any risk involved in changing your hair color.
____	✓	4.	A good moisturizer will make wrinkles disappear.
✓	____	5.	Using hormones on the skin can cause an upset to your body's system.
____	✓	6.	The most expensive cosmetic will always do the best job--"you get what you pay for."
✓	____	7.	Most cosmetic ingredients must appear on the label.
✓	____	8.	Regardless of their cost, many similar cosmetics are made from the same basic ingredients.
____	✓	9.	The federal government pretests cosmetics for safety and effectiveness before the products reach the market.
✓	____	10.	About 60,000 people every year are disabled for at least a day, or seek medical help, as a result of an injury caused by a cosmetic.

A. Consider once more the three-way responsibility for product safety. What role do you think the GOVERNMENT should exercise in cosmetic safety? What about the MANUFACTURER? What should be the role of the CONSUMER?

ANSWERS WILL VARY.

B. Compare the ingredient listings of several brands of a similar product. Do they use any of the same ingredients? How does the price of the product compare to the number of ingredients?

ANSWERS WILL VARY.



LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOU UNDERSTAND MEDICINE SAFETY.

CIRCLE THE LETTER OF THE CORRECT MULTIPLE CHOICE ANSWER FOR EACH OF THESE INCOMPLETE SENTENCES:

1. Mrs. Linden took two tranquilizers before going to a cocktail party. She should

   a. drink at least three cocktails at the party to keep her relaxed.
   (b) not drink anything alcoholic.
   c. take two stimulants to overcome the effects of the tranquilizers. Then she can drink as much as she pleases.

2. Mr. Hudson has felt sick for several days. He has the same symptoms that his son had a few weeks ago. Mr. Hudson should

   a. take the remaining capsules the doctor prescribed for his son.
   b. take two aspirin and go back to bed.
   (c) call his doctor.

3. The Brown's two-year-old girl just loves children's aspirin. They should

   a. keep them on an open shelf above the bathroom sink.
   (b) keep them out of sight, preferably under lock and key.
   c. let her have as many as she wants.

4. Miss Jackson filled a prescription at the neighborhood drug store, but discovered she could not read the instructions. She should

   (a) ask the pharmacist or doctor to explain the directions.
   b. just go ahead and take two capsules before each meal and at bedtime. This was the instruction for other medication she had taken recently.
   c. wait a few days and have the prescription refilled. Maybe she could read the instructions then.

5. Mrs. Smith was bothered by a skin irritation. Her doctor prescribed an ointment to use for four days. Mrs. Smith, however, felt better after using the ointment only two days. She should

   a. save the remaining ointment in case she's ever troubled by a similar rash again.
   (b) continue using the ointment as directed.
   c. use the rest of the ointment all at one time to prevent the rash from reappearing.

6. The label on a bottle of rubbing alcohol reads, "For external use only." This means

   a. it is safe to drink.
   (b) it should be used only on the outside of the body.
   c. it should be used only outdoors, not in a confined place.

DEFINITIONS, FACTS, AND VALUES

When we argue about consumer issues and problems, we often generate more heat than light! One reason we have problems is because we confuse different kinds of questions in an argument.

There are three main types of questions. Questions of definition ask what a word, a phrase, or a statement means. Questions of fact ask for more information, if something is true, or if something will happen. Questions of value ask if something is good or bad, right or wrong, desirable or undesirable, or if we should do something.

To questions of definition, you respond with stipulations of meaning. To questions of fact, you respond with proof or evidence. To questions of value, you respond with justifications.

READ EACH OF THE FOLLOWING. PUT A "D" IF IT IS A QUESTION OF DEFINITION, PUT AN "F" IF IT IS A QUESTION OF FACT. PUT A "V" IF IT IS A QUESTION OF VALUE. BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS YOUR ANSWERS AND HOW YOU WOULD RESPOND TO EACH QUESTION.

__D__ 1. What is the difference between "cosmetic" and "drug"?

__D__ 2. Just what is a "psychoactive" drug?

__V__ 3. Have you ever been persuaded to buy a product because it seemed to promise instant healing?

__V__ 4. Is Product X really a good buy at that price?

__F__ 5. By "pharmacist," do you mean someone who is licensed to dispense drugs?

__F__ 6. Do many people in America buy over-the-counter drugs?

__F__ 7. Is "alcohol" a psychoactive drug?

__F__ 8. If we ban all over-the-counter drugs, will the price of drugs go higher and higher?

__V__ 9. Can you imagine a situation where it is O.K. for one person to use another person's prescription drug?

__F__ 10. Is drowsiness one possible side effect of cold pills?

3. ARE EXTRA CAREFUL WHEN USING MEDICATIONS.

TRUE	FALSE		
___	✓	1.	All Americans need to take vitamins.
___	✓	2.	If you have a reaction to a drug, continue taking it for three days. Then, if symptoms persist, see your doctor.
✓	___	3.	To be safe, consult a doctor before taking two or more drugs at the same time.
___	✓	4.	Always remove drugs from their original containers. Place them in pill boxes for easy access.
___	✓	5.	The idea that drugs and alcohol don't mix is merely a myth. Alcohol actually makes most drugs cure you faster.
___	✓	6.	Because over-the-counter drugs have such low levels of ingredients, they are never dangerous.
___	✓	7.	Doubling the dosage indicated on the drug label will speed recovery.

A. React to the following statements:

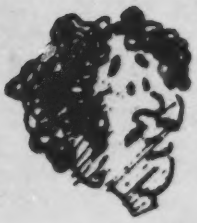
"I have just as much right to my poison as you do to yours," a teenager says. "Why can't I smoke marijuana if you drink alcohol?"

Another student asks, "Adults take pep pills and tranquilizers. Why is it such a big deal when teenagers take them?"

ANSWERS WILL VARY.

B. How can we (government, you, and I) stop the trend toward increased drug abuse?

ANSWERS WILL VARY.



DISTINGUISHING FACT AND OPINION

When buying products, we find that people are sending us messages that they want us to believe. The first step in deciding whether to believe something is to separate statements of FACT and statements of OPINION.

Let's look at two examples of statements made in a discussion:

1. Effective 1984, federal regulations will require U.S. automobile manufactures to increase by at least twenty-five percent the fuel efficiency of all mass production automobiles.

2. The increase in the fuel efficiency of automobiles will cause more air pollution problems in the world.

The first statement is a factual one (whether it is true or false is a separate question). We can check out that first statement by looking for evidence. The second statement offers an opinion -- the speaker's interpretation or value judgement.

READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS. WRITE F BEFORE THOSE WHICH ARE FACTUAL STATEMENTS (WHETHER TRUE OR FALSE). WRITE O BEFORE STATEMENT OF OPINION.

O 1. "Safety is the right of all who consume products made in America."

F 2. "Microwave ovens are capable of emitting radiation."

O 3. "LP gas is great, especially in an outdoor grill tank."

F 4. "Doors and stairs are places in the home where many accidents occur."

F 5. "More than 160,000 lawnmower accidents occur annually."

O 6. "Clean your oven frequently."

O 7. "You can always tell safety-tested electric equipment by the Underwriter's Laboratory Label."

O 8. "All fuel-burning heaters should be vented to the outside of any building."

F 9. "Carbon monoxide in sufficient concentrations can kill a human being."

F 10. "Lead in paint on children's toys and children's furniture was a source of accidental death for children."

4. RECOGNIZE POTENTIAL HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH HOME APPLIANCES AND FURNISHINGS.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS: ANSWERS GIVEN ARE POSSIBILITIES; STUDENTS MAY GIVE OTHER ANSWERS.

1. Why is it important to properly maintain and use microwave ovens?
   TO AVOID DANGER OF RADIATION.

2. Name three things you can do to possibly avoid injuries while using a power lawn mower.
   READ INSTRUCTIONS; WEAR SHOES; RAKE BEFORE MOWING.

3. Why are fuel-burning appliances or heaters potentially quite dangerous?
   COULD PRODUCE DEADLY CARBON MONOXIDE GAS.

4. Why is it important to be extra cautious when selecting baby furniture and equipment?
   TO AVOID ACCIDENTS INVOLVING THE BABY.

5. Name three things you can do to possibly avoid electrical shocks when using electrical appliances.
   BUY SAFETY-TESTED APPLIANCES; READ INSTRUCTIONS AND FOLLOW THEM; "GROUND" CAREFULLY.

6. Again, consider the three-way responsibility for product safety. What could each (GOVERNMENT, MANUFACTURER, and the CONSUMER) do to reduce the 65,000 yearly emergency room visits for injuries from accidents associated with ladders? [58]
   GOVERNMENT--REGULATE WEIGHT LIMITATIONS; MANUFACTURER--BUILD STURDY LADDER; CONSUMER--BE CAREFUL DURING USE.

7. Falls are responsible for almost one-half of all home deaths. More than two-thirds of these deaths are accounted for by people at least seventy-five years old.[47] Pretend your great-grandmother is coming for a visit. Look around your home. Name some things you could do to eliminate hazards which could cause a possibly fatal fall.
   ANSWERS MAY VARY.

8. Thousands of injuries and deaths are caused by upholstered furniture fires and the generated smoke and toxic gases. Often the fire is started by cigarettes. Sometimes the furniture is placed too close to a heat source.[94] Again, look around your home. What are some things you can do to avoid such hazards?
   ANSWERS MAY VARY.

5. UNDERSTAND DANGERS OF CHEMICALS CONTAINED IN HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS.

TRUE	FALSE		
✓		1.	Gasoline is the cause of the majority of accidents caused by flammable liquids.
	✓	2.	In order to burn, a flammable liquid must be ignited by a direct flame.
	✓	3.	Gasoline should be stored in glass containers.
✓		4.	Always use and store flammable liquids in well-ventilated areas to prevent a build-up of flammable vapors.
✓		5.	"Child-proof" caps should be placed on pesticides, cleaning products, and other dangerous household products.
✓		6.	Pesticides may be absorbed through the skin causing illness or death.
✓		7.	Puncturing an aerosol container could cause an explosion.
✓		8.	Some propellants previously used in aerosols could cause a change in the earth's atmosphere.
	✓	9.	Mixing household cleaning products together is a safe way to get a sparkling home.
	✓	10.	If a toxic chemical is accidentally swallowed, you should always induce vomiting immediately.

A. Go on a "Chemical Hazard Hunt" throughout your home. What chemicals did you find? Were they stored correctly? If not, what could you do to eliminate hazards associated with the chemical products?

ANSWERS MAY VARY.

B. Did you ever consider that using a common product -- such as a can of deodorant or hair spray -- could have far-reaching effects into the earth's atmosphere? In such an instance, do you feel the government had the right to ban the use of chlorofluorocarbons?

ANSWERS MAY VARY.

6. KNOW DANGERS OF BAD FOOD.

FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH THE CORRECT WORDS OR PHRASES.

1. Refrigerators need to be kept at temperatures of 35-40 DEGREES F. in order to maintain food quality.

2. Ground meat is "good" for 1-2 days if kept in the refrigerator.

3. BOTULISM may result from tasting food from a bulging can.

4. Ms. Happ was cutting up a chicken for dinner when she was interrupted by a phone call. When she returned, she immediately began dicing boiled potatoes for a salad, using the same knife. This is an example of CROSS-CONTAMINATION.

5. SALMONELLA bacteria are normally found in poultry, eggs, dairy products, raw meat, and fish.

6. Large cuts of meat, such as steak and roast, are normally good for 3-5 days if refrigerated.

7. Symptoms resulting from "Staph" bacteria usually appear within 2-4 hours after eating.

A. Sometimes a picnic in the summertime can lead to food poisoning problems. What are some precautions you can take to keep the FOOD FELONS away from your picnic?
ANSWERS WILL VARY.

B. Many more botulism cases result from improperly home-canned foods than those commercially canned. Do you know anyone who cans foods? If so, ask them what precautions they take to make sure the food is safe to eat.
ANSWERS WILL VARY.

Open and Closed Cases

Many times we get some evidence and draw a conclusion. We think that the evidence we have is conclusive. But how much evidence is needed to make a firm judgment? Let's take CIGARETTES.

LIST THE BENEFITS OF SMOKING CIGARETTES --	LIST THE BAD EFFECTS AND RISKS OF SMOKING CIGARETTES --
ANSWERS WILL VARY.	ANSWERS WILL VARY.

From your research, do you have enough evidence to make a firm judgment about whether <u>you</u> should smoke cigarettes (A CLOSED CASE)? Is the evidence still inconclusive (AN OPEN CASE)?

<u>RISK</u>: Some people will make judgments about their personal habits on less evidence than others. It depends upon their attitude toward RISK-TAKING.

Given the evidence and your values, what kind of position should the government take in our society --

1. Ban the sale of cigarettes?
2. Ban the smoking of cigarettes?
3. Ban the smoking of cigarettes in public places?
4. Ban the advertising of cigarettes?
5. Warn consumers about the risks and dangers of cigarettes?
6. Let consumers make their own choices and accept the risks?

Justify your decisions in class discussion. Refer to the opening section of this PAL on risk-taking, voluntary and involuntary risks, etc.

7. KNOW INFORMATION TO BE FOUND ON PRODUCT LABELS.

NAME WHAT YOU THINK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECE OF INFORMATION THAT IS (OR NEEDS TO BE) ON LABELS OF THE FOLLOWING PRODUCTS:

1. Clothing ANSWERS WILL VARY.
2. Medications ANSWERS WILL VARY.
3. Food products ANSWERS WILL VARY.
4. Pesticides ANSWERS WILL VARY.
5. Household cleaning products ANSWERS WILL VARY.
6. Large appliances ANSWERS WILL VARY.
7. Small appliances ANSWERS WILL VARY.
8. Toys ANSWERS WILL VARY.
9. Cosmetics ANSWERS WILL VARY.
10. Cigarettes ANSWERS WILL VARY.

Should labeling laws be changed in any way? If so, how and why?

ANSWERS WILL VARY.

I'D RATHER DO IT MYSELF.....

Read the following quotation from Abraham Lincoln:

"You cannot bring prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage-earner by pulling down the wage-payer. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves."

-- Abraham Lincoln

List product safety situations that CONSUMERS cannot handle for THEMSELVES as INDIVIDUALS:

ANSWERS WILL VARY.

If individual consumers cannot handle a product safety issue or problem as an individual, what can they do?

ACTION IN GROUP LEVEL? -- example, form or join a consumer action group.

ANSWERS WILL VARY.

ACTION WITH GOVERNMENT? -- example, get government to pass a rule.

ANSWERS WILL VARY.

2

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

-- Establishes controls over foods and medicines for man and animals, cosmetics, and medical devices; power granted by the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act

-- Establishes requirements of labeling to inform consumers of ingredients and net content; power granted by the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act

-- Protects public from unnecessary exposure to radiation from electronic products; power granted by the Radiation Control for Health and Safety Act

-- Oversees vaccines, serums, and other biological products, the sanitation in milk processing, shellfish, restaurant operations, and interstate travel facilities; power granted by the Public Health Service Act[92, 105]

READ EACH SITUATION CAREFULLY AND THEN CHECK THE AGENCY WHOSE JOB IT WOULD BE TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION.

Food and Drug Administration	Consumer Product Safety Commission	
_____	✓	1. Establishes a laboratory designed to research the causes of bicycle injuries.
_____	✓	2. Issues safety standards for Christmas tree lights.
✓	_____	3. Requires a cracker manufacturer to list the net contents of the box of crackers on the box.
✓	_____	4. Requires the aspirin bottles to have "child-proof" caps.
_____	✓	5. Checks radar ranges for radiation factors.
✓	_____	6. Requires a lipstick to be removed from the market because it contains a harmful ingredient.
✓	_____	7. Inspects interstate snack bars for sanitary practices.
_____	✓	8. Checks fabrics to determine how easily they burn.

8. KNOW HOW TO COMBAT UNSAFE PRODUCTS.

1. Name two governmental agencies responsible for product safety:

   CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

   FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

2. What private agency tests products for electrical safety?

   UNDERWRITER'S LABORATORY, INC.

3. List three things you can do to help keep unsafe products from the marketplace:

   ANSWERS WILL VARY; MAY INCLUDE:

   BUY WISELY, BOYCOTT, COMPLAIN

ALTHOUGH CONSUMER ACTION GROUPS MAY BE EFFECTIVE IN HELPING ELIMINATE HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS FROM THE MARKETPLACE, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO JOIN A CONSUMER GROUP TO BE A CAUTIOUS CONSUMER. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS BE AN INTELLIGENT CONSUMER, A CONCERNED CONSUMER, AND A RESPONSIBLE CONSUMER. MOST IMPORTANTLY, BE AWARE! DO NOT BELIEVE WITHOUT QUESTION ANYTHING AN ADVERTISEMENT OR LABEL TELLS YOU. DO NOT BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE PROTECTED FROM ALL HAZARDS OR THAT ANY PRODUCT IS SO SAFE YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE CAREFUL. THE CONSUMER, HIMSELF, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GREAT MAJORITY OF PRODUCT-RELATED INJURIES SIMPLY BECAUSE HE IS CARELESS. HE DOES NOT FOLLOW DIRECTIONS FOR USE, ASSEMBLY, OR MAINTENANCE. HE DOES NOT APPLY SAFETY RULES. DON'T BE A CARELESS CONSUMER! PRACTICE GOOD PRODUCT SAFETY SENSE. BE A CAUTIOUS CONSUMER!

STUDENT
PAL

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HEALTH SERIES
PRODUCT SAFETY

AN OUNCE

OF PREVENTION

SCAT
Skills for Consumers Applied Today

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W E L C O M E to this PAL*, a consumer resource booklet. The two characters shown on this page are the Hazzards -- Ms. Happ and Happ Hazzard. You will find them in many of the illustrations used throughout this booklet.

Important information is divided into chapters or sections. Each section begins with a title page and includes:

P A S S W O R D S which give the special meanings for the words used in that section.

R E V I E W T I M E exercises to determine what you have learned.

Have fun, study hard, and become a conscientious consumer.

*PAL: Packaged Activities for Learning

Users of the consumer skills presented in this resource booklet come in both genders, female and male. The text and dialogues sometimes say "he," sometimes "she," sometimes "you," sometimes "the person." Please feel free to substitute the feminine for the masculine pronoun, and vice versa, any time it is appropriate to your situation.

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

Approximately 20,000,000 Americans are injured each year in the home as a result of incidents connected with consumer products. Of the total, 110,000 are permanently disabled. 30,000 are killed. The annual cost to the nation of product-related injuries may exceed $5.5 billion.[9] This is a staggering toll. It is doubly frightening when we realize that a significant number of these tragedies could have been spared if more attention had been paid to hazard reduction.

Accidents frequently involve everyday products used by us all. These product-related accidents occasionally hospitalize people. Sometimes, they take lives, often the lives of children.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) was created in 1972 to help reduce injuries associated with consumer products.[10] To obtain reliable information about product safety problems, the commission operates the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS).[89] NEISS records product-related injuries reported by 119 hospital emergency rooms throughout the country. NEISS ranks the products using a formula which considers the frequency and severity of injury. Adjustments are made to give added emphasis to injuries occurring to children under age ten. The study may be limited in that only injuries treated in emergency rooms are recorded. Injuries treated at a doctor's office or in the home are not counted. However, the resulting ranking does give us an idea of the types of products most often associated with serious accidents.[108]

HOW DID HAPP BREAK HIS LEG?

HE FELL DOWN A FLIGHT OF STAIRS. ACCORDING TO RECENT NEISS REPORTS, STAIRS, RAMPS, AND LANDINGS ARE THE PRODUCTS MOST OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH INJURIES TO THE CONSUMER AROUND HIS HOME![66]

RANK	TYPE OF PRODUCT	RANK	TYPE OF PRODUCT
1	STAIRS, RAMPS, LANDINGS	14	FLOORS
2	BICYCLES	15	SKATES
3	BASEBALL	16	SKATEBOARDS
4	FOOTBALL	17	STORAGE FURNITURE
5	BASKETBALL	18	LADDERS, STEPSTOOLS
6	NAILS, TACKS, ETC.	19	DRINKING GLASSES, GLASS
7	DOORS, NON-GLASS	20	CANS
8	ARCHITECTURAL GLASS	21	SOCCER
9	TABLES, NON-GLASS	22	CUTLERY
10	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	23	FENCES
11	BEDDING	24	POWER LAWN MOWERS
12	CHAIRS, NON-UPHOLSTERED	25	GYMNASTICS
13	SNOW SKIING	26	GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS

66

1978 NEISS ranking of products associated with accidental injuries

As consumers, we buy and use hundreds of products a year, many of the same products listed above. When you select a product from the shelf, do you ever wonder if the product is safe? Most of us simply assume that <u>if</u> a product is available for purchase, it is "<u>Okay</u>."

However, the truth is that some products that appear on the market may actually present hazards to the consumer. Toys, appliances, or furnishings with sharp edges or poorly balanced parts may present a MECHANICAL hazard. They might cause you to fall or cut yourself. Clothing that easily ignites presents a THERMAL hazard. Certain household products such as cleaners, drugs, paints, etc., may present a CHEMICAL hazard if not used correctly. Appliances may present an ELECTRICAL hazard.[30]

Being aware that such possible hazards exist could help prevent injuries.

CONSUMER → BE AWARE

ALL PRODUCTS ARE NOT NECESSARILY SAFE SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY ARE ON THE MARKET.

SAFETY...

SOME QUESTIONS

Consumers ought to be concerned about SAFETY. Few persons would want to be UNSAFE or use UNSAFE products.

But we know that living life has its RISKS, that accidents happen, and that the future is uncertain. We know that nothing is completely RISK-FREE, that there is no PERFECT SAFETY!

-- Building a house with stairs involves RISKS.

-- Using a step ladder to trim a tree or to change a light bulb involves taking a chance.

-- Driving a car on the street outside your home involves taking chances.

-- Putting electricity in your house involves RISKS -- electric current can never be COMPLETELY SAFE....there are always risks -- potential dangers.

-- Buying Mary the best wagon on the market still involves risks for Mary when she is playing with it. The same with the best tricycle, the best Raggedy Ann doll, etc.....

If nothing is absolutely, completely, perfectly safe.....WHAT DO WE DO? What thoughts do you have on this?

We know that in living life, some people are willing to take more risks than others:

1) Mel is willing to swim in the old creek to get cool on a hot summer day. Harry would never risk it -- he'd rather sweat.

2) Ride a motor bike? "Never!" exclaims Debbie. But Shari rides hers everywhere, as an inexpensive mode of transportation.

3) To save twenty bucks, Bill cleans off his roof twice a year. Jim, Bill's neighbor, pays someone else to take the risk in cleaning the roof.

4) Bryan goes hunting to get meat for the table. Britt buys his meat at the supermarket -- preferring the risks of driving to the shopping center parking lot to the risks of hunting.

LIST SOME WAYS YOU TAKE RISKS TO GET BENEFITS:

Risks I take	***Benefits I get***

Why does it make sense to take RISKS? Two concepts help us deal with this:

Reasonable Risks: Life is not risk-free, and we know it. We are willing to take REASONABLE risks to get certain benefits. What risks are reasonable is a matter of debate. Some people are willing to take greater chances than others.

Voluntary Risks: We know that life has its risks. To help us decide what risks are REASONABLE for us, we need to know what the RISKS involved in products and activities are. That is, we need to know the RISKS and voluntarily decide to take the risks or not take them. We do NOT want to be forced to take risks because we don't know the risks (INVOLUNTARY RISKS).

CAN YOU LIST SOME ACTIVITIES WHERE YOU MAY TAKE INVOLUNTARY RISKS?

DISCUSS THE RISKS NOTED BELOW:

1) You need to visit the dentist, and your dentist is on the fourth floor. To get to her office, you must use the elevator.

2) To get to work at your new job, you have to drive over a bridge built and maintained by the State Department of Transportation.

3) Little Mary is always building something in the back yard -- a rock garden, a brush pile for wildlife, etc. You decide to purchase and give her a bright red wagon for her birthday -- to assist in her building projects.

4) You have three days off from work and want to visit your great grandmother in another city. To do that, you need to fly on Smooth Flight Airlines.

5) You are concerned about your personal attractiveness. You think that using mascara may assist in making you more attractive as a person.

6) Consumers in your region want electricity. The company supplying the electric energy generates it by burning coal in large quantities.

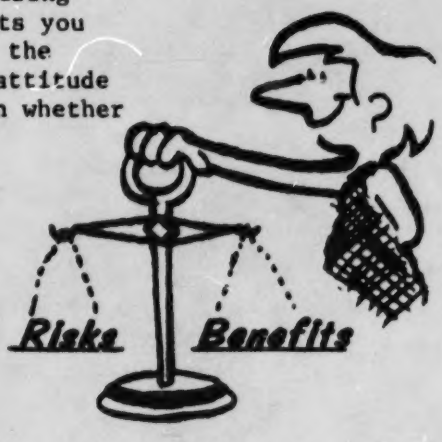
7) Consumers in your region want the electric energy at a low cost, and the utility company thinks that nuclear generating plans produce the lowest cost electric power. They are about to build a nuclear plant to serve your area.

8) You are buying a new car. You want reasonable gas mileage, so you are going to buy a compact car.

Divide the class into small groups to study each of the above consumer decisions. WHAT ARE THE INVOLUNTARY RISKS involved in each of the above consumer decisions? WHAT ARE THE VOLUNTARY RISKS involved in each of the above? In your judgment, are the VOLUNTARY and INVOLUNTARY RISKS REASONABLE -- given the benefits?

Reasonable Risks:

You have studied the risks involved in using a product. You have studied the benefits you get from using the product. Based upon the balance of risks and benefits and your attitude toward taking risks, you make a decision whether to use the product or not to do so.



Voluntary and Involuntary Risks:

Taking a certain medicine or using a certain product involves the possibility of certain side effects. You know about the possible side effects and decide to use the medicine. THAT IS A VOLUNTARY RISK.

You see a product advertised which will provide certain benefits. No one tells you about the possible side effects. Since you are not a scientist, you could not know the side effects. Buying and using that medicine is an INVOLUNTARY RISK.

Consumer education is needed to help us: 1) decide what reasonable risk is when buying things (goods and services), and 2) decide what involuntary risks we are willing to accept in goods and services offered for sale in the marketplace.

LIST THREE PRODUCTS YOU PURCHASED LAST WEEK:

1. _____ _____ _____
2. _____ _____ _____
3. _____ _____ _____

⇧⇧⇧⇧⇧⇧ VOLUNTARY RISKS FOR EACH:

⇧⇧⇧⇧⇧⇧ INVOLUNTARY RISKS FOR EACH:

How safe do you have a right to be ?

Suppose you are careless, hasty, or ignorant about how to use a product safely. Must you be protected against your own mistakes? Maybe you are the daredevil type and enjoy taking risks. Should you be prevented from doing so? WHO is primarily responsible for your safety?

Since we live in a free society, the really big issues in consumer product safety involve the role of consumers and the role of governments (local, State, and Federal). HOW much, in a free society, should we expect consumers to take care of themselves? How much should government take care of consumers? If government does too much, we lose our freedom and our sense of being responsible for ourselves.

MANY OF US, HOWEVER, ARE UNABLE TO TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES AS CONSUMERS:

1. Many people are illiterate and cannot read labels to know how to use products safely.

2. Some products are complicated scientific creations, far beyond the knowledge and understanding of average consumers.

3. Many of us are careless. We don't read labels and don't consider risks involved.

4. Many of us are busy in school or in careers. We don't take time to study products to buy and to use them wisely.

5. Sometimes we do not have clear labels proclaiming the benefits and warning of the risks in using particular products.

We can say that there is a three-way responsibility for making consumer products safe -- the government, the manufacturer, and the consumer. Each has a responsibility. If CONSUMERS foul up in using a product, they suffer the consequences. If MANUFACTURERS produce unsafe products, they may be taken to court to suffer the consequences. But what of GOVERNMENT? How do we balance the role of government to protect citizen-consumers? Some citizens need PROTECTION, but we also need a FREE SOCIETY, where CITIZENS ARE RESPONSIBLE. What is the role of government?

These are hard questions. Few persons would claim to have the FINAL, CORRECT answer! The issue is OPEN, not closed!

Position Taking

A. Read the following quotation, then fill in the POSITION TAKING form which follows:

> "The legitimate object of government is to do for the people what needs to be done, but which they cannot by individual effort do at all, or do so well, for themselves."
>
> --Abraham Lincoln

MY POSITION (agree or disagree with Abe Lincoln): _____

_____

SUPPORTING REASONS:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

B. Read the following assertion, then fill in the POSITION TAKING form which follows:

> "Government has no business banning toys with sharp edges. It is up to the consumer to be smart enough to buy safe toys and to refuse to buy unsafe toys."

MY POSITION (agree or disagree with above statement): _____

_____

SUPPORTING REASONS:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Public or Private Responsibilities

Below we have listed situations involving consumer product safety. Decide which are matters for consumers to deal with on their own (PRIVATE), and which are issues where government ought to be involved (PUBLIC). Be ready to justify your decisions in class discussion.

PRIVATE	PUBLIC		
_____	_____	1.	You own a new car. To get better gas mileage, you disconnect some of the pollution control equipment.
_____	_____	2.	You own a new car. To save money, you drive six people to work with you in a car pool each day. They pay you 50¢ a day. You drive each day.
_____	_____	3.	You own a new car. To get what you feel is better gas mileage, you strain your engine driving around in 4th gear.
_____	_____	4.	You own a new car. To save money you join a car pool. You drive one day a week, others drive the other days.
_____	_____	5.	You own a new car. To reduce weight and get better gas mileage, you strip off everything you don't use--seat belts, back seat, hub caps, and rear bumper.
_____	_____	6.	You own a new car. To meet a payment, you sell the spare tire.
_____	_____	7.	You own a new car. To improve its looks, you repaint it in several red tones, add chrome strips, and realign a set of rear lights.
_____	_____	8.	You own a new car. To improve its "looks," you sell the old tires, and add new undersized tires.
_____	_____	9.	You own a new car. To save money you buy as little insurance as you can to cover you in accidents. Actually, you don't want to buy any insurance! You'll take your chances!
_____	_____	10.	You own a new car. To save money the manufacturer put in a smaller engine than advertised. You didn't notice this earlier, when purchasing the car.

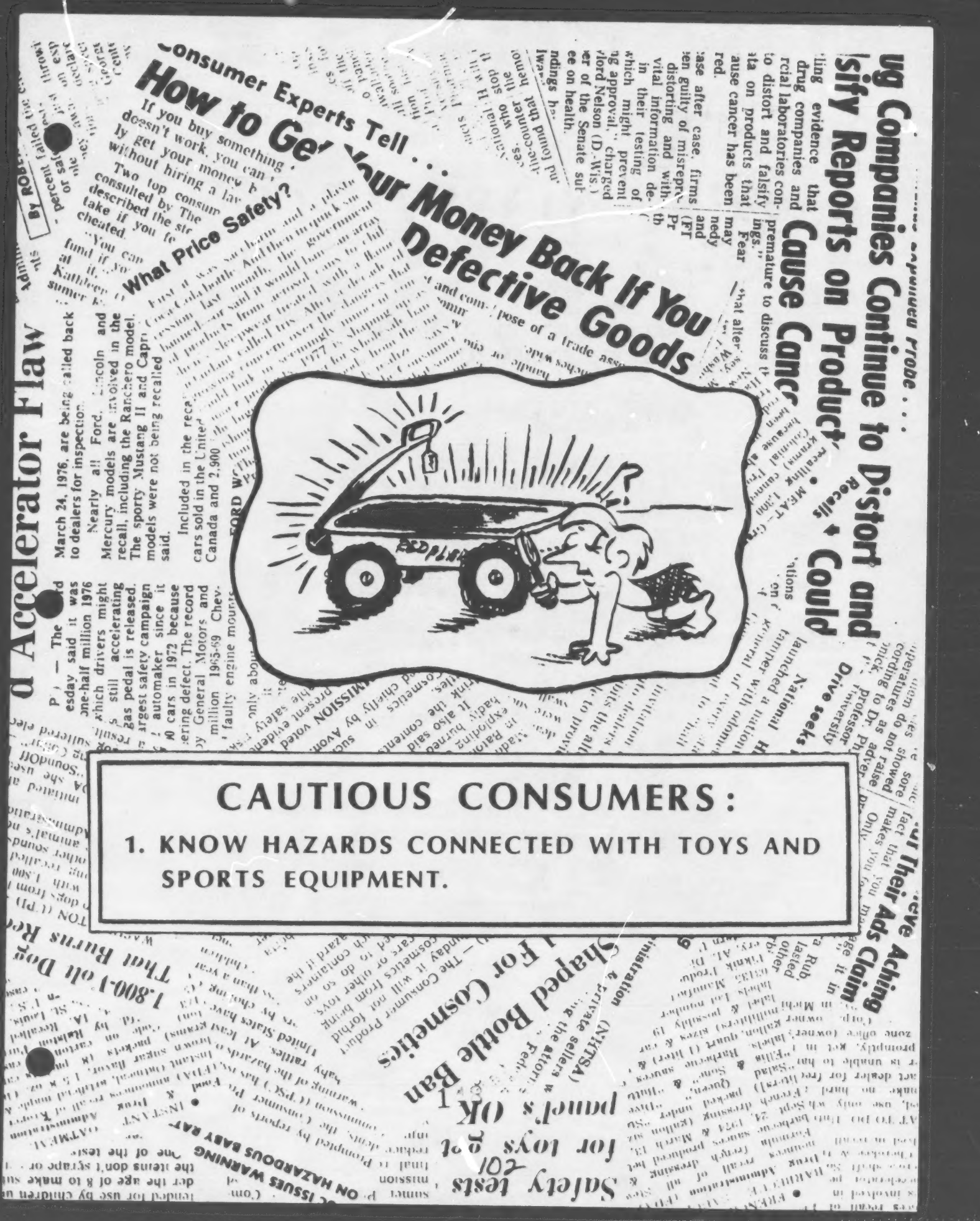
For more practice, turn back to the consumer situations on page 7. Which of these is a matter of personal responsibility? Which is a matter of public (Government) responsibility? Why? What makes the difference?

So far in this unit, we have discussed some important concepts. We have looked at safety questions, risks versus benefits, and responsibilities for product safety.

Keep those concepts and questions in mind as we now concentrate on hazards associated with some consumer products.

CAUTIOUS CONSUMERS:

1. KNOW HAZARDS CONNECTED WITH TOYS AND SPORTS EQUIPMENT.
2. CAREFULLY BUY AND USE COSMETICS.
3. ARE EXTRA CAREFUL WHEN USING MEDICATIONS.
4. RECOGNIZE POTENTIAL HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH HOME APPLIANCES AND FURNISHINGS.
5. UNDERSTAND DANGERS OF CHEMICALS CONTAINED IN HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS.
6. KNOW DANGERS OF BAD FOOD.
7. KNOW INFORMATION TO BE FOUND ON PRODUCT LABELS.
8. KNOW HOW TO COMBAT UNSAFE PRODUCTS.


Consumer Experts Tell . . .
How to Get Your Money Back If You Buy Defective Goods
What Price Safety?
Ford Recalls 1.5 Million Cars Because Accelerator Flaw
Drug Companies Continue to Distort and Falsify Reports on Product Safety, Could Cause Cancer
Safety Tests for Toys Get OK
Shaped Bottle Ban
CAUTIOUS CONSUMERS:
1. KNOW HAZARDS CONNECTED WITH TOYS AND SPORTS EQUIPMENT.

passwords ...

1. KNOW HAZARDS CONNECTED WITH TOYS AND SPORTS EQUIPMENT.

BAN	*To forbid the sale of a particular product*
CPSC	*Consumer Product Safety Commission; federal agency created in 1972 to regulate risks of injuries associated with consumer products*
DESIGNER	*One who makes plans or patterns for something such as a product*
FLAME RESISTANT	*Something which inherently or through treatment is designed to retard burning*
HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE	*Substance that can cause substantial injury or illness through customary or reasonable use -- such as a toxic or flammable substance; also refers to a toy or article intended for use by children that presents an electrical, mechanical, or thermal hazard*
MANUFACTURER	*A person or factory which makes articles for sale*
PRETEST	*A preliminary check of a product before it is offered for sale*
RETAILER	*One who sells to the public*
TOXIC SUBSTANCE	*Substance which can cause injury or illness when ingested, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin.*

Ready to Move On ?

Do You Know the Passwords ?

When we consider toys, most of us think of fun and play and happy children. Unfortunately, toy land is not just a world of merry playthings. It is also a world of booming business and potential danger. Each year Americans spend between four and five billion dollars on toys. Also, each year approximately 700,000 children are injured in toy-related accidents.[82] In addition, about one-half million bicycle and tricycle related injuries are tallied in hospitals annually.[5,93]

Who is responsible for toy safety? The toy designer, manufacturer, and retailer certainly do not want the user injured. However, their primary concern is sales. Governmental agencies do not pretest toys for safety before they go on the market. Indeed, it would be impossible to inspect all toys as they appear in stores simply because there are so many toys available.[91] *THEREFORE, THE ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM UNSAFE TOYS MUST REST ON THE CONSUMER.*

Careful toy selection and proper supervision of children at play are still -- and always will be -- the best ways to protect children from toy-related injuries. Be aware of safety features to look for when purchasing toys. Know safety practices to enforce when using and storing toys.

CHECK THE FOLLOWING RULES FOR TOYS!

Think Toy Safety!

When Buying Toys:

1. Keep in mind the child's age. Don't buy toys too complicated or too large for the child. Always check the age recommendation on the package. Remember this is a MINIMUM age, the very youngest age that a child should have a toy. However, not every child that age will be mature enough to handle it. You must take into account the child's capabilities.

2. Read labels. Look for safety information such as: "nontoxic" on painted toys, "flame resistant" on fabric toys, and "washable" on stuffed toys.

3. Stay away from:

   -- toys with small parts which can be swallowed if the toys are for a very young child
   -- toys producing loud sounds which may injure hearing
   -- toys with sharp points, such as staples or pins; or toys that can break, exposing sharp edges which can cut or bruise
   -- flying toys such as darts or missiles; all arrows or darts used as toys should have rubber suction or cork tips
   -- toys with plate glass windows which can break or shatter

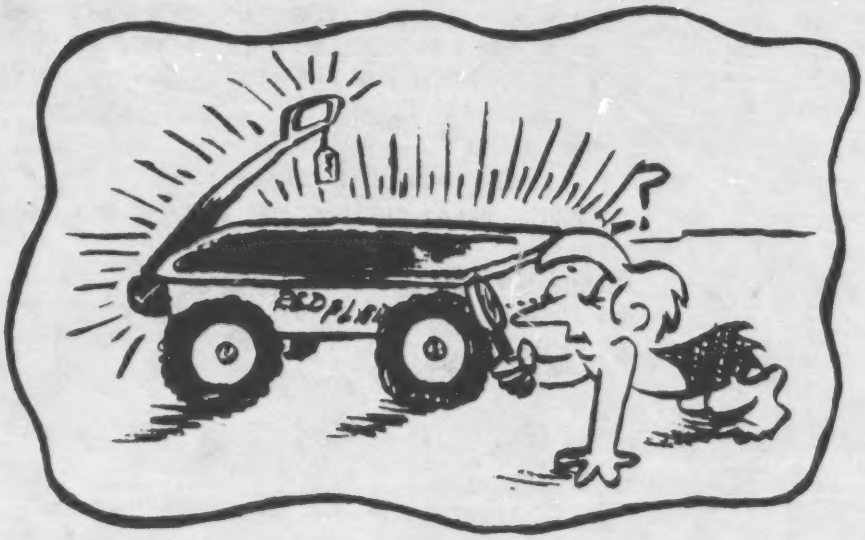
4. Always assemble toys correctly. Make certain swing sets and other outdoor play equipment are securely anchored in the ground.

5. When buying an electrical toy, be sure the child is old enough to play with it correctly and safely. Be ready to supervise usage. Look for a label which shows that the toy has been approved by a nationally recognized testing agency.

6. When buying toys that require some skill in operating or using (such as air rifles, bikes, etc.), be sure to teach proper methods of usage and safety rules <u>before</u> allowing the child to use the toy.

7. Look at TV ads for toys and begin to teach concepts of a critical viewer -- even to young children. Emphasize cost of toys in relationship to allowances. Teach children to *CREATE TOYS FROM HOUSEHOLD DISCARDS*. Point out the difference between the toy's exciting "TV appearance" and its "real life image."

8. Don't be "taken" with educational toys. According to Dr. Jerome Kagan, a child psychologist, there is no evidence that toys can make children smarter or hasten their development. Toys can help children learn skills (such as tying shoelaces or reading maps), but there's no evidence that toys can increase intelligence.[82]



When Using Toys:

1. Teach children to put their toys safely away after using to prevent falls and resulting injuries.

2. Examine the play area from time to time for broken toys with jagged edges or exposed sharp points. Repair or discard any potentially dangerous toys.

3. Teach children to use safe play habits. Supervise children playing on playground equipment. Many injuries occur there, especially among two to seven year olds.

4. Make sure that toys used outdoors are stored after play -- rain or dew can rust or damage a variety of toy parts creating hazards.[13, 17, 28, 69, 79]

CONSUMER BE AWARE

A TOY IS ONLY AS SAFE AS ITS OWNER. RULES AND GUIDELINES WILL NOT PROTECT THE CHILD IF HE IS CARELESS WITH HIS TOYS OR IF GIVEN AN "UNSAFE" TOY. IF TOYS ARE SELECTED CAREFULLY AND CHILDREN TAUGHT THE NECESSARY SAFETY RULES, TOYS AND PLAY WILL BE BOTH SAFE AND ENJOYABLE.[78]

NOTICE

The CPSC has authority to ban hazardous toys and other children's products from sale. Toys with the following characteristics have been banned:

* --TOY RATTLES WITH RIGID WIRES, SHARP POINTS, OR LOOSE SMALL OBJECTS THAT COULD INJURE *
* --TOYS WITH NOISEMAKING PARTS EASILY SWALLOWED *
* --STUFFED TOYS HAVING PARTS THAT COULD CAUSE INJURY *
* --LAWN DARTS AND OTHER SHARP POINTED ITEMS INTENDED FOR OUTDOOR USE THAT COULD PUNCTURE (UNLESS THEY INCLUDED PROPER PRECAUTIONS, DIRECTIONS, AND ARE NOT SOLD AS A "TOY") *
* --OVERLY LOUD CAPS FOR TOY GUNS *
* --BABY SUPPORTS WHICH COULD PINCH, CUT, OR BRUISE *
--CLACKER BALLS THAT COULD BREAK OFF CAUSING INJURY

If you buy a banned toy, you may return it to the store or manufacturer (with receipt of purchase) and receive a full refund.[82, 91]

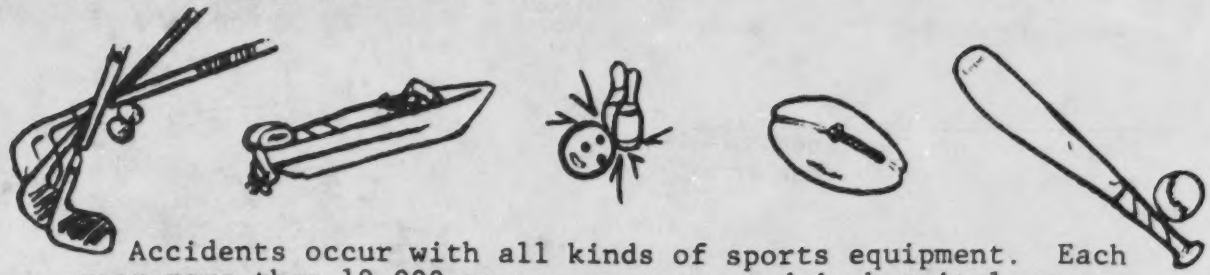
*****

GOVERNMENT CAN BAN TOYS, BUT IT CANNOT RECALL THEM!

Once a toy is sold, it usually stays in the child's home, unless the parent happens to read about the ban in the newspapers or hear about it on TV or radio. The sad truth is that most toy bans attract very little press attention!

CONSUMER BE GLAD →

CHILDREN'S TOYS ARE GOING TO BE MUCH SAFER NOW THAT NEWLY APPROVED CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION REGULATIONS ARE IN EFFECT. MANUFACTURERS ARE NOW REQUIRED TO TEST TOYS INTENDED FOR USE BY CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 8 TO MAKE SURE THE ITEMS DON'T SCRAPE OR CUT. THE TEST INVOLVES PRESSING THE TOY AGAINST A TAPE-COVERED ROTATING SPINDLE THE SIZE OF A CHILD'S FINGER. IF THE EDGE OF THE TOY CUTS THE TAPE, THE TOY FAILS THE TEST AND CAN BE BANNED FROM THE RETAIL MARKET.[80]



Accidents occur with all kinds of sports equipment. Each year more than 19,000 persons are treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with trampolines, according to the CPSC.[92] Roller skates, ice skates, and skateboards account for another 104,000 emergency room visits.[77] However, football is one of the most hazardous sports, causing 106,000 serious injuries in 1977.[27]

Here are some measures you can take to play football more safely.[27]

FOOTBALL

AND

FOOTBALL EQUIPMENT

1. *Protective Equipment*

   --Use shoes which have short, flat heel cleats or bars to reduce injuries to other players.
   --Use helmets which provide as much protection as possible for your face, without having protrusions which could injure opponents.
   --Use faceguards.
   --Use properly fitted teeth protectors; those fitted by a dentist are best.

2. *The Player*

   --Repeat injuries can be a particular hazard. After an injury, check with your physician before you resume playing.
   --Play with others in your own size and weight group.
   --Learn the rules of the game and follow them. Many injuries are caused by violations of existing rules. Game officials should enforce the rules stringently.

3. *The Environment: coaches, playing field, and practice sessions*

   --Look for a coach who promotes safer play.
   --If the field has holes in it or is littered, you run a greater risk of injury. Survey the field and keep it clear and in good condition.
   --Limit tackling and blocking when you practice. Some experts believe these hazardous activities should be performed as infrequently as possible, perhaps only in actual games. Be aware that half of all football related injuries occur in practice.

USE THE ABOVE FOOTBALL SAFETY SUGGESTIONS AS A GUIDE AND DETERMINE SAFETY MEASURES THAT SHOULD BE OBSERVED IN OTHER SPORTS.

Bicycle use has been increasing in recent years, but so has the number of bicycle injuries.

MORE THAN 460,000 PEOPLE IN THE U.S. ARE SERIOUSLY INJURED EACH YEAR IN BICYCLE ACCIDENTS.

MORE THAN 1000 BICYCLISTS DIE EACH YEAR IN BICYCLE-RELATED ACCIDENTS.[6]

You, as a consumer, can protect yourself. Know the rules of the road. Purchase a safer bicycle. Maintain your bicycle on a regular basis. Be constantly aware of traffic as you ride.

How can bicycle accidents be reduced?
One way is proper bicycle selection.
Here are 12 points to look for in proper selection:

1. LOOK CLOSELY AT ALL POTENTIALLY SHARP EDGES.
2. LOOK AT ALL PARTS OF THE FRAME.
3. WATCH OUT FOR PROTRUSIONS WHICH COULD CAUSE INJURY TO THE THIGH OR GROIN.
4. FAULTY BRAKES CAN CAUSE ACCIDENTS.
5. CHAIN GUARDS ARE VERY IMPORTANT.
6. HANDLEBARS SHOULD ALLOW COMFORTABLE AND SAFE CONTROL OF THE BICYCLE.
7. INSPECT TIRES CLOSELY.
8. THE BICYCLE YOU SELECT SHOULD BE VISIBLE FROM EVERY ANGLE.
9. CHECK FOR TWO TYPES OF CLEARANCES--at least 3½ inches at all times between the pedal and front fender or tire, and the pedals must not touch the ground when the bike is tilted 25 degrees on a turn.
10. AVOID EQUIPMENT OR MATERIALS WHICH RISE MORE THAN 5 INCHES ABOVE THE REAR OF THE SEAT.
11. BE SURE THE BIKE YOU BUY IS FIRMLY ASSEMBLED.
12. DO NOT BUY A BIKE THAT CANNOT BE ADJUSTED TO FIT.[6]

TIPS FOR SAFER BIKE USE

DRIVE NEAR THE CURB, SAME DIRECTION AS TRAFFIC, AND SINGLE FILE.
STUNTING OR CLOWNING ON BICYCLES CAN RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY.
KEEP ALL PARTS PROPERLY ADJUSTED AND IN GOOD CONDITION.
BE ALERT TO SURFACE CONDITIONS AND TRAFFIC AROUND YOU.
COMPETING WITH HIGH SPEED, HEAVY TRAFFIC IS DANGEROUS.
RIDING IN WET WEATHER IS HAZARDOUS.
KEEP BIKE TIRES IN TOP CONDITION.
KNOW TRAFFIC LAWS AND SIGNALS.[6]

DISTINGUISHING FACT AND OPINION

In a discussion we hear people make statements which they want us to accept as TRUE! They want us to believe something. To know if we should accept what they tell us, we first have to know if they are making a statement which is a fact or an opinion. Look at these two examples:

1. Nuclear energy is very dangerous as a way to get electric power.

2. Nuclear generating plants are being constructed, today, in every region of the United States.

The first statement offers us an interpretation of the facts. It is a statement of OPINION. The second statement offers us a factual assertion (whether it is true or false is another matter).

READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS. WRITE F BEFORE THOSE WHICH ARE FACTUAL STATEMENTS (WHETHER TRUE OR FALSE). WRITE O BEFORE STATEMENTS OF OPINION.

_____1. "Careful toy selection and proper supervision are the best ways to insure child safety with toys."

_____2. "When selecting a bicycle, be aware of safety features."

_____3. "On electrical toys, the Underwriter's Laboratory seal shows that the toy has been tested for safety."

_____4. "BB guns can shoot a BB fifty yards."

_____5. "Government has the legal power to ban toys which are found unsafe."

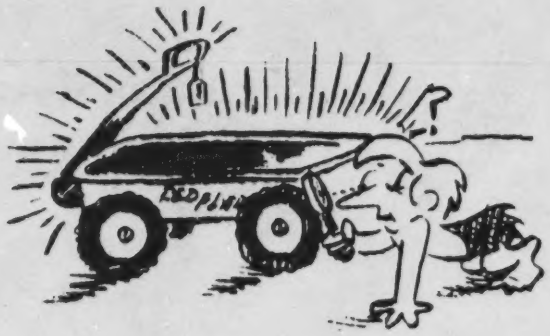
_____6. "Newspapers always report on unsafe toys."

_____7. "109,682 toys were found unsafe in the United States last year."

_____8. "Educational toys are good for children."

_____9. "Three out of four parents are careful toy shoppers, as judged by the research of the Consumer Product Safety Commission."

____10. "Football is a hazardous sport."



1. KNOW HAZARDS CONNECTED WITH TOYS AND SPORTS EQUIPMENT.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING:

1. Pretend that you are a careful and thoughtful parent of three children under ten years of age. LIST your ideas about WHAT MAKES FOR A GOOD TOY. That is, list the criteria that a toy would have to live up to, before you would call it a GOOD TOY.

2. Still pretending that you are the parent, LIST the criteria that a TOY would have to live up to in order for you to call it a SAFE TOY.

3. What is your favorite sport? What are some things you can do to avoid injuries while you participate in that sport?

4. The Consumer Product Safety Commission has developed safety regulations that must be met by all new bicycles sold in the U.S. All bicycles must be reflectorized. All hand brakes must pass a pressure test ensuring that the average person will be able to operate them. All bicycle frames must be able to pass certain durability (strength) tests. These regulations apply to all bikes imported into the U.S., as well as those manufactured here, after May 11, 1976.[5]

What do you think of this kind of government regulation? Do you think the Federal Government should be able to regulate for safety? Why or why not?

Children aged 5 - 14 are victims of 66% of today's bicycle accidents.[5] How can young people be taught bicycle safety? Whose responsibility is it? What kind of bicycle safety education is being given through the schools to children in your school district? What could you do to help?

Companies Continue to Distort and
Reports on Product
Cause Cancer
Could
Accelerator Flaw
Ford
Consumer Experts Tell . . .
How to Get Your Money Back If You
Defective Goods
What Price Safety?
CAUTIOUS CONSUMERS:
2. CAREFULLY BUY AND USE COSMETICS.

passwords ...

2. CAREFULLY BUY AND USE COSMETICS.

ACNE	*A skin condition in which the oil glands become clogged and inflamed, often causing pimples*
COSMETIC	*Anything we rub, pour, sprinkle, or spray on our bodies to improve our appearance*
DERMATOLOGIST	*A doctor specializing in treating skin problems*
HORMONES	*Chemicals formed in the body for specific purposes*
HYPO-ALLERGENIC	*Not containing known allergy-causing substances*
MASCARA	*A cosmetic designed to darken or lengthen the eyelashes*

Ready to Move On ?

Do You Know the Passwords ?

V@113

Americans spend over $9 billion a year on cosmetics.[52] We buy shampoos, deodorants, soaps, lipsticks, after-shave lotions, perfumes, cleansing creams, eye shadows, dusting powder, and dozens of other items. Indeed, there are some 25,000 cosmetic products on the retailer's shelves.[34] Many consumers eagerly buy them -- anticipating breathtaking results and not worrying about their safety.

But safety factors must be considered when purchasing and using cosmetics! According to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, some 60,000 people are injured by cosmetics every year. Typically, the problem is an allergic reaction, ranging from a mild skin irritation to a severe rash. But there have been more serious injuries, such as blindness, baldness, and disfigurement.[13]

Warning: Cosmetics May Be Hazardous to Your Health.

Another possible health hazard involves the long-term effect of cosmetics. Many consumers believe that cosmetics applied to the surface of the skin eventually evaporate or are washed off. However, studies of substances similar to those used in cosmetics have found rates of absorption into the blood of as much as sixty percent. If the skin is cut or damaged, the absorption rate is even higher.[106] According to Heinz Eiermann, director of the FDA's Bureau of Cosmetics Technology:

> *"Investigative dermatologists have stated there is no cosmetic ingredient that does not go through the skin. The real questions are: How much of it gets through? Where does it go when it gets inside? Does it go right through and come out the other end without change? Or is it stored somewhere in the body, and if so, where? Or maybe it's metabolized, which means its molecules are changed and broken down. It may be safe when it goes in, but when it gets inside it may become unsafe. But we just don't have enough information on this. We don't know what these ingredients do."*[106]

The safety of each ingredient in a cosmetic must be verified by the manufacturer. Critics of the cosmetic industry point out, though, that much of the extensive testing for safety has concentrated on immediate irritations, rather than long-range hazards.[106] The government does not pretest cosmetics for safety or effectiveness. FDA does, though, act to remove a product from the market if it receives too many reports of allergic reactions to that product. This usually happens if the cosmetic seems to cause a reaction to one out of 1000 persons.[13]

The consumer must weigh the benefits of the cosmetic against any potential hazards and decide whether or not to buy and use the product.

Cosmetics:

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW TO USE THEM SAFELY

Acne Treatments

Acne is caused by an imbalance of hormones inside the body. A severe case of acne may require treatments by a dermatologist. Acne preparations can help kill surface bacteria and speed the peeling of top layers of skin. To be effective, the acne product must contain at least one of the following ingredients: Benzoyl Peroxide, Sulfur, Resorcinol, or Salicyclic Acid.[1]

A widely used acne remedy is a prescription drug called Retinoic Acid or Tretinoin. Recent findings suggest that using this drug and spending a lot of time in the sun may greatly increase your risk of developing skin cancer caused by exposure to the sun.[39]

Allergies

No product can totally guarantee not to cause allergies. What's O.K. for one person may cause a violent reaction in another. Test cosmetics for an allergic reaction by placing a small amount on your inner forearm. Check the area after twenty-four hours for a rash, swelling, redness, etc.

A product that says "HYPO-ALLERGENIC" simply means it is less likely to cause allergies. It is not foolproof.[55]

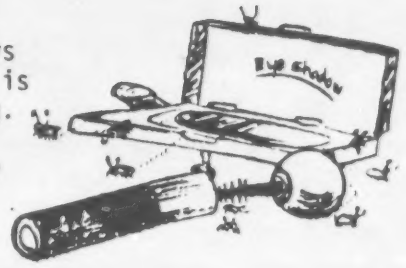
Hygiene Sprays

These products are still being sold despite numerous complaints of rashes, itching, and urinary infection. The FDA's only action has been to order that such products carry a warning label.[65] For those determined to use these sprays, remember: read the label carefully, follow all directions exactly, and heed all warnings given.

Moisturizers, Creams

No matter how fancy the name or exciting the source (queen bees or minks), the only advantage of using creams and oils is that they coat the skin with a protective film. This helps the skin retain its natural moisture.[65] Unfortunately, moisturizers and creams won't remove wrinkles!

Eye Make-up



Any products used around the eyes should always be applied with extreme caution. Cleanliness is especially important. Wash hands before using. Never use another's eye makeup. Because bacteria grow so readily, keep containers tightly closed. Throw mascara away after three to four months when preservatives may have begun to lose their effectiveness. If the product is dried out, it probably is not good and should not be moistened and used.[13,102]

Hormone Ingredients

Most research shows that products containing hormones have only a minor effect on erasing wrinkles. Even that effect is temporary. However, hormones can be absorbed through the skin. Continual use of even small amounts can disrupt your natural balance of hormones and cause physical problems. Read the labels carefully. Do not use more than the amounts indicated.[13]

Hair Colors & Dyes

Some dyes can cause blindness or severe irritation if they come in contact with the eye.[33] These products must, by law, tell you a toxic ingredient is present and instruct you in proper use. Read the directions carefully and follow them explicitly!

The FDA is also concerned that two chemicals found in permanent hair dyes (especially in brunette and some dark blonde tones) may cause cancer. In an experiment conducted by the National Cancer Institute, rats developed thyroid and skin tumors when fed large doses. (The FDA feels there is no way to paint a sufficient amount of dye on a small number of laboratory animals to determine the risk to humans.)[41] The cosmetics industry, however, conducted five studies in which rats painted with the dye did not develop such cancers. Another study showed that cosmetologists did not suffer a higher rate of cancer than the general population.[37]

Once again, consumer, the choice is yours!

Bubble Bath

Bubble baths sometimes contain irritating substances -- such as perfumes and detergents. They might be "fun," but could cause rashes and genital infections, especially in young children. USE WITH CAUTION! Soap and water may be safer![11,33]

Open and Closed Cases

Many times we get some evidence and draw a conclusion. We think that the evidence we have is conclusive. But how much evidence do we need to make a firm judgment? Mary sees John step on one ant, and she labels him a "killer" and a "nature-hater!" One pair of shoes is unsatisfactory, so we never buy any shoes from that store again.

How much evidence do we need to shape a final decision in which we will have confidence? Let's take bubble bath. What do we know about the effects which bubble bath users call GOOD? What do we know about the effects which bubble bath users might consider BAD?

"GOOD EFFECTS?"	"BAD EFFECTS?"
Enhancing Self-esteem and Self-assurance	Skin Irritation and Rash
Relaxing	Infection and Inflammation

You can add to this list of evidence. Do you have enough information to make a judgment (A CLOSED CASE)? Or is the evidence about YOUR using bubble bath still inconclusive (AN OPEN CASE)?

RISK: Some people will make judgments on less evidence than others. It depends upon their attitude toward RISK-TAKING. Some people will take greater risks than others to get what they want. Hold a class discussion on bubble baths. See if you can detect differences in RISK-TAKING among your fellow students.

Have you ever been persuaded to buy a cosmetic product because it promises instant beauty, love, or sex appeal? Ever buy a product because its box or package appeals to you? If your answer is "NO," you are a super shopper with great will power. However, if your answer is "YES," (as most of our answers will be), perhaps you need to become aware of the following:

MADE-UP WORDS

Be careful! Advertising is a business. Advertisers want to sell you a product without making false promises that could lead to suits of false advertising. They make up words like "lubrifying creams." They add little conditioning words like "may help" or "helps fight." Actually, these advertisements claim little. Don't expect much!

PACKAGING AND LABELING

Even if the ingredients are the same, the package makes a difference. A cold cream dressed up in a fancy jar may cost several times as much as the same cream in a plain white jar.[13]

Since April 1977, all ingredients in cosmetics, except for flavors and fragrances, must be listed on the label -- or on an accompanying tag.[81] This should help people with allergies avoid certain ingredients. Ingredient listing should also help consumers make value comparisons among various products.

BRAND NAMES

Brand names may create a super image of the rich and beautiful. They may make you feel good about spending more because "you're worth it." But, guess what! Chemical analyses show that products in any category--lipsticks, face creams, etc.,--basically are similar in composition. An inexpensive substance such as vegetable oil can be just as effective in keeping the skin soft as the most expensive face cream.[65] However, fragrances and preservatives seem to cause the greatest number of allergic reactions.[81] Products containing many of these ingredients may cause more allergenic problems than the "plainest" brands.

EXAMINE COSMETIC ADVERTISING, PACKAGING, AND LABELING EXAMPLES. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE ABOVE ASSERTIONS? DO YOU FEEL THEY ARE VALID OR NOT? WHY OR WHY NOT?

2. CAREFULLY BUY AND USE COSMETICS.

TRUE	FALSE		
____	____	1.	An absolutely foolproof method of avoiding rashes caused by cosmetics is to buy only those brands which are "hypo-allergenic."
____	____	2.	Acne is caused by an imbalance of hormones, and severe cases are most effectively treated by a dermatologist.
____	____	3.	There is no longer any risk involved in changing your hair color.
____	____	4.	A good moisturizer will make wrinkles disappear.
____	____	5.	Using hormones on the skin can cause an upset to your body's system.
____	____	6.	The most expensive cosmetic will always do the best job--"you get what you pay for."
____	____	7.	Most cosmetic ingredients must appear on the label.
____	____	8.	Regardless of the cost, many similar cosmetics are made from the same basic ingredients.
____	____	9.	The federal government pretests cosmetics for safety and effectiveness before the products reach the market.
____	____	10.	About 60,000 people every year are disabled for at least a day, or seek medical help, as a result of an injury caused by a cosmetic.

A. Consider once more the three-way responsibility for product safety. What role do you think the GOVERNMENT should exercise in cosmetic safety? What about the MANUFACTURER? What should be the role of the CONSUMER?

B. Compare the ingredient listings of several brands of a similar product. Do they use any of the same ingredients? How does the price of the product compare to the number of ingredients?

CAUTIOUS CONSUMERS:

3. ARE EXTRA CAREFUL WHEN USING MEDICATIONS.

passwords ...

3. ARE EXTRA CAREFUL WHEN USING MEDICATIONS.

AMPHETAMINE	*A drug used to diminish appetite and to overcome fatigue*
ANTIBIOTIC	*A drug used to stop the growth of microorganisms*
ANTIHISTAMINE	*A drug used to relieve symptoms of allergic reactions*
BARBITURATE	*A drug used to induce sleep*
DEPRESSANT	*Agent that reduces bodily functional activity*
DOSAGE	*The exact amount of a substance (such as medicine) to be taken*
DRUG	*Any substance that has an effect upon the body or mind*
DRUG INTERACTION	*The resulting action of two or more drugs taken at the same time*
HALLUCINATION	*Perception of objects with no reality; may occur in response to drugs*

OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUG	*A drug which can be purchased without a prescription*
PHARMACIST	*A person licensed to dispense drugs*
PLACEBO	*Substance that is not a drug, (such as a sugar pill) but possibly can relieve symptoms because of patient's belief in its effectiveness*
POTENCY	*The quality of being powerful or effective*
PRESCRIPTION DRUG	*A drug which can be obtained only by written orders from a doctor*
STIMULANT	*Agent that increases bodily functional activity*
TRANQUILIZER	*A drug used to suppress emotional reactions*
VARICOSE VEINS	*Abnormally swollen or dilated veins*

Ready to Move On ?

Do You Know the Passwords ?

No doubt you, like millions of other Americans, have used non-prescription (or over-the-counter) drugs to get relief from minor problems such as indigestion, headache, constipation, mild aches and pains, and skin irritations. There are thousands of such drugs that we buy and use. We may not give much thought to either the drug's effectiveness or safety. *CONSUMERS SHOULD BE CAREFUL WHEN USING MEDICATIONS.*

There is a great deal of controversy over the effectiveness of many drugs on the market. For example, a panel reviewed the safety and effectiveness of nonprescription cold medicines for the U. S. Food and Drug Administration. They came to the conclusion that many cold remedies have such low levels of ingredients that they are virtually useless![40]

Another committee reviewed the ingredients in over-the-counter antibiotics that are sold for treatment of minor skin wounds. They found that some of the ingredients were useful in keeping harmful germs from getting into the wound. The committee could not, however, determine if the ingredients actually helped treat the infection.[44]

A similar controversy surrounds the use of vitamins. Vitamin supplements may be necessary in some cases of vitamin deficiency. However, many physicians feel that vitamins are a waste of money for well-fed, healthy people. The best bet is to consult <u>your</u> physician before using <u>any</u> drug, including vitamins.

Often, though, these drugs and vitamins do make us feel better. Perhaps we feel better because of the placebo effect. A placebo is a substance used in place of medicine, often a sugar pill. Studies have consistently shown that one-third of us will feel better after taking a placebo -- even in cases of severe pain. If you believe in something, chances are good that it will make you feel better.[31]

Today, there are many products on the market which may present known or unknown hazards. Some drugs have known side effects which could cause illness or death in persons with certain physical characteristics. However, because of the value of these drugs in treating pain or illness, these drugs are used. Therefore, it is vital that you report <u>any</u> adverse reaction to either over-the-counter or prescription drugs to your doctor! Even common aspirin can cause problems for some individuals.[43] Take <u>all</u> medicine with care.

Let's examine some of these hazards in more detail.

Potentially dangerous drugs are the so-called "psychoactive" drugs. These drugs have the capacity to influence behavior. They alter feeling, mood, perception or other mental states. Even substances like tobacco and coffee have some psychoactive properties. Some of the psychoactive drugs are available legally. Ones with the most dramatic effects are available by prescription only. Other psychoactive drugs are illegal.[75]

WHILE UNDER TREATMENT WITH A PRESCRIPTION DRUG FOR DEPRESSION, A 30-YEAR-OLD WOMAN SWALLOWED A COUPLE OF PEP PILLS SHE BORROWED FROM A FRIEND. SHE DEVELOPED A HEADACHE AND CALLED HER DOCTOR. HER HEAD FELT AS IF IT WERE "BURSTING." ALTHOUGH SHE WAS PROMPTLY HOSPITALIZED AND SEDATED, HER BLOOD PRESSURE SHOT UP ALARMINGLY. WITHIN TWO HOURS SHE WENT INTO A COMA AND DIED.[86]

DRUG INTERACTION

Taken separately, those medications would have been relatively harmless. However, by self-dosing without consulting her doctor, she created a lethal combination known as DRUG INTERACTION. An autopsy showed that the interaction caused blood vessels in her brain to bleed.

Serious drug interactions are a growing worry to the medical profession. There are over 130,000 prescription drugs and chemical combinations. Consumers can buy more than 6,000 over-the-counter pills.[86]

Some adverse interactions are unavoidable. The exact behavior of two or more drugs in an individual can't always be predicted. The problem is compounded when a patient has different doctors for various ailments. The CAUTIOUS CONSUMER will inform each doctor of <u>all</u> medication being taken.

Fortunately, most drug interactions are not fatal, yet reactions can be quite serious. Sometimes the reaction is that one drug offsets the other. Then the patient is robbed of the medicine's benefit. For example, a pill taken to relieve indigestion can reduce the potency of an antibiotic given for infection.[86]

NEVER TWO AT A TIME?

Grim as all this sounds, it does <u>not</u> mean that under no circumstances should you take two or more drugs at the same time. A dangerous interaction is not always bound to happen if you do. Some conditions require multiple-drug therapy, but only a skilled doctor can safely make such a decision!

You can help by remembering that drugs are designed to alter some natural bodily condition. By their very nature, drugs have side effects.

NOTICE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF THESE DRUGS:

PROPERTIES OF COMMONLY USED DRUGS		
TYPE	PURPOSE	SIDE EFFECTS, WARNINGS
AMPHETAMINES	Stimulants that diminish appetite and lessen sleepiness	Disruption of mental function, lessening of muscle control, hallucinations; Stimulant effect may mask extreme fatigue
TRANQUILIZERS	Suppress emotional reactions; Effects similar to alcohol	Advised against driving or using dangerous machinery; Can be lethal when combined with alcohol
ANTIHISTAMINES	Relieve congestion and tissue inflammation associated with head colds and allergies; May also diminish symptoms of motion sickness	Advised against driving or using dangerous machinery
BARBITURATES	Depressant taken at bedtime to induce sleep	Takes hours for effects to wear off; Advised against driving or using dangerous machinery

40, 75

Protect yourself from unnecessary drug interactions and unwanted side effects. Keep these rules firmly in mind:

1. Take only medication that is prescribed.
2. Never borrow prescription medicine. "One man's cure may be another's poison."
3. Be wary about store pills. Keep your use of them to a minimum. Check their ingredients. Read the precautionary labels. Over-the-counter medicines are required by FDA to contain information about significant drug interactions.[59]
4. Speak up. Let your doctor know what prescription medicines and drugstore remedies you have taken recently (within the past few weeks). Alcohol, headache remedies, cold medicines, laxatives, and other nonprescription medicines should be included. It's the least you can do to avoid an unexpected drug interaction.

Alcohol counts as a drug and has a "synergistic" effect when combined with other drugs. This refers to the joint action of drugs which, when taken together, increase each other's effectiveness. For example, mixing alcohol and tranquilizers or barbiturates can be absolutely deadly!

Are you curious what your doctor writes on a prescription pad? There really is no mystery once you understand the shorthand involved and can decipher the doctor's handwriting. Look at the example below:

JOHN H. JONES, M.D.
1501 Wisconsin Blvd.
BNDD No. AH 8741406 Atlanta, Ga. 30340 Phone: 403-2222
Office hours by appointment

Name Ms. Tisia Edwards Date 11-16-76
Address 1911 Belfield Road

℞

Tetracycline mgms 250
Capsules No. 16
Sig one capsule q6h

REP (0) 1-2-3 PRN John H. Jones M.D.

42

This sample prescription calls for sixteen capsules of tetracycline in a dosage strength of 250 milligrams per capsule. The abbreviation "Sig." written under the prescription itself tells the pharmacist the instructions for the patient that should appear on the container label. In this instance, the patient is instructed to take one capsule every six hours. Look at the printed letters "REP." followed by a series of numbers in the lower left-hand corner of the prescription. This indicates the number of times it can be refilled without obtaining a new prescription from the doctor. This prescription could not be refilled.[42]

#0126

Americans have often been accused of being a "pill-happy" society. We take a pill to put us to sleep, keep us awake, cure our depressions, pep us up, and calm us down. Pill popping has become a real problem. The vast variety of the over-the-counter or prescription drugs available to us only makes the problem worse. Even in the early days of our country's history, many people became addicted to remedies containing large doses of codine, morphine, and alcohol. Drug abuse is not new!

Be a CAUTIOUS CONSUMER. Follow these guidelines when using medicines to help ensure their safe consumption:

* 1. DON'T TAKE ANY MEDICINE UNNECESSARILY. HABIT CAN BE A DANGEROUS THING.

* 2. FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS EXACTLY AS GIVEN ON THE LABEL FOR DOSAGE AND TIME OF USE (WITH MEALS, BEFORE BED, ETC.). THE MEDICINE WON'T WORK PROPERLY IN YOUR SYSTEM UNLESS YOU TAKE IT AS DIRECTED. THERE ARE FOOD AND DRUG INTERACTIONS THAT MUST BE CONSIDERED.

* 3. STORE DRUGS AS RECOMMENDED ON THE LABEL. MANY DRUGS LOSE THEIR POTENCY AND BECOME USELESS WHEN EXPOSED TO EXCESSIVE HEAT OR LIGHT.

* 4. NEVER TAKE MEDICATION WHEN DRINKING ALCOHOL, UNLESS SPECIFICALLY GIVEN PERMISSION TO DO SO BY YOUR DOCTOR.

* 5. DO NOT STOP TAKING A PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE FEELING BETTER AND YOU THINK YOU NO LONGER NEED IT. YOU MAY PREVENT THE DRUG FROM DOING ITS WORK COMPLETELY. FOLLOW YOUR DOCTOR'S INSTRUCTIONS.

* 6. DO NOT TRANSFER DRUGS FROM THEIR ORIGINAL CONTAINERS. THEIR POTENCY MAY BE LOST BY ABSORPTION INTO THE CONTAINER'S WALLS OR BY OTHER MEANS. IN ADDITION, IF OTHER MEDICINES HAVE BEEN STORED IN THE CONTAINER, TRACES OF THE OLD MEDICINE MAY INTERACT WITH THE NEW ONE.

* 7. KEEP CAPS TIGHTLY SEALED.

8. DON'T TAKE MEDICATION IN FRONT OF CHILDREN IF YOU CAN AVOID IT. SMALL CHILDREN LIKE TO COPY ADULTS' EXAMPLES AND MIGHT EXPERIMENT WITH DISASTROUS RESULTS!

9. KEEP ALL MEDICINES OUT OF REACH OF SMALL CHILDREN, UNDER LOCK AND KEY IF NECESSARY.

10. MAKE SURE ALL MEDICINES ARE LABELED AND DATED WHEN PURCHASED, INCLUDING OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUGS. OLD DRUGS MAY DETERIORATE AND BECOME INEFFECTIVE OR EVEN DANGEROUS. EFFECTIVE MARCH 1979, A FDA RULING REQUIRES THAT ALL PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND MOST OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUGS CARRY AN EXPIRATION DATE. THIS SHOULD HELP YOU DETERMINE WHETHER OLD MEDICINE IS STILL GOOD.

11. NEVER TAKE OR GIVE MEDICINE IN THE DARK. THE CHANCE OF A MISTAKE IS TOO COSTLY.

12. NEVER TAKE MEDICINE PRESCRIBED FOR ANOTHER. MEDICINE IS PRESCRIBED ON THE BASIS OF AGE, WEIGHT, SEX, AND PHYSICAL CONDITION. ALTHOUGH ANOTHER'S SYMPTOMS MAY BE THE SAME AS YOURS, HIS BODY ISN'T!

13. MAKE CERTAIN YOU UNDERSTAND THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE USE OF MEDICATION BEFORE YOU START TAKING OR USING IT. ASK YOUR PHARMACIST OR DOCTOR TO EXPLAIN THE DIRECTIONS IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBTS.

14. DO NOT TAKE TWO OR MORE DRUGS AT THE SAME TIME WITHOUT CONSULTING YOUR DOCTOR.

15. IF YOU THINK YOU'RE EXPERIENCING A SIDE EFFECT FROM A DRUG, STOP USING IT AND CALL YOUR DOCTOR!

16. PREGNANT WOMEN SHOULD BE ESPECIALLY CAUTIOUS ABOUT TAKING ANY KIND OF MEDICINE, INCLUDING ASPIRIN. ALCOHOL AND SMOKING CAN ALSO AFFECT THE UNBORN CHILD!

17. CARRY A CARD IN YOUR WALLET THAT LISTS IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT YOUR HEALTH. THIS SHOULD INCLUDE NECESSARY MEDICATIONS AND THOSE TO WHICH YOU ARE ALLERGIC. [4, 61, 71, 96, 97, 100, 101]

LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOU UNDERSTAND MEDICINE SAFETY.

CIRCLE THE LETTER OF THE CORRECT MULTIPLE CHOICE ANSWER FOR EACH OF THESE INCOMPLETE SENTENCES:

1. Mrs. Linden took two tranquilizers before going to a cocktail party. She should

   a. drink at least three cocktails at the party to keep her relaxed.
   b. not drink anything alcoholic.
   c. take two stimulants to overcome the effects of the tranquilizers. Then she can drink as much as she pleases.

2. Mr. Hudson has felt sick for several days. He has the same symptoms that his son had a few weeks ago. Mr. Hudson should

   a. take the remaining capsules the doctor prescribed for his son.
   b. take two aspirin and go back to bed.
   c. call his doctor.

3. The Brown's two-year-old girl just loves children's aspirin. They should

   a. keep them on an open shelf above the bathroom sink.
   b. keep them out of sight, preferably under lock and key.
   c. let her have as many as she wants.

4. Miss Jackson filled a prescription at the neighborhood drug store, but discovered she could not read the instructions. She should

   a. ask the pharmacist or doctor to explain the directions.
   b. just go ahead and take two capsules before each meal and at bedtime. This was the instruction for other medication she had taken recently.
   c. wait a few days and have the prescription refilled. Maybe she could read the instructions then.

5. Mrs. Smith was bothered by a skin irritation. Her doctor prescribed an ointment to use for four days. Mrs. Smith, however, felt better after using the ointment only two days. She should

   a. save the remaining ointment in case she's ever troubled by a similar rash again.
   b. continue using the ointment as directed.
   c. use the rest of the ointment all at one time to prevent the rash from reappearing.

6. The label on a bottle of rubbing alcohol reads, "For external use only." This means

   a. it is safe to drink.
   b. it should be used only on the outside of the body.
   c. it should be used only outdoors, not in a confined place.

DEFINITIONS, FACTS, AND VALUES

When we argue about consumer issues and problems, we often generate more heat than light! One reason we have problems is because we confuse different kinds of questions in an argument.

There are three main types of questions. Questions of definition ask what a word, a phrase, or a statement means. Questions of fact ask for more information, if something is true, or if something will happen. Questions of value ask if something is good or bad, right or wrong, desirable or undesirable, or if we should do something.

To questions of definition, you respond with stipulations of meaning. To questions of fact, you respond with proof or evidence. To questions of value, you respond with justifications.

READ EACH OF THE FOLLOWING. PUT A "D" IF IT IS A QUESTION OF DEFINITION. PUT AN "F" IF IT IS A QUESTION OF FACT. PUT A "V" IF IT IS A QUESTION OF VALUE. BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS YOUR ANSWERS AND HOW YOU WOULD RESPOND TO EACH QUESTION.

____1. What is the difference between "cosmetic" and "drug"?

____2. Just what is a "psychoactive" drug?

____3. Have you ever been persuaded to buy a product because it seemed to promise instant healing?

____4. Is Product X really a good buy at that price?

____5. By "pharmacist," do you mean someone who is licensed to dispense drugs?

____6. Do many people in America buy over-the-counter drugs?

____7. Is "alcohol" a psychoactive drug?

____8. If we ban all over-the-counter drugs, will the price of drugs go higher and higher?

____9. Can you imagine a situation where it is O.K. for one person to use another person's prescription drug?

____10. Is drowsiness one possible side effect of cold pills?

3. ARE EXTRA CAREFUL WHEN USING MEDICATIONS.

TRUE	FALSE		
____	____	1.	All Americans need to take vitamins.
____	____	2.	If you have a reaction to a drug, continue taking it for three days. Then, if symptoms persist, see your doctor.
____	____	3.	To be safe, consult a doctor before taking two or more drugs at the same time.
____	____	4.	Always remove drugs from their original containers. Place them in pill boxes for easy access.
____	____	5.	The idea that drugs and alcohol don't mix is merely a myth. Alcohol actually makes most drugs cure you faster.
____	____	6.	Because over-the-counter drugs have such low levels of ingredients, they are never dangerous.
____	____	7.	Doubling the dosage indicated on the drug label will speed recovery.

A. React to the following statements:

"I have just as much right to my poison as you do to yours," a teenager says. "Why can't I smoke marijuana if you drink alcohol?"

Another student asks, "Adults take pep pills and tranquilizers. Why is it such a big deal when teenagers take them?"

B. How can we (government, you, and I) stop the trend toward increased drug abuse?

CAUTIOUS CONSUMERS:

4. RECOGNIZE POTENTIAL HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH HOME APPLIANCES AND FURNISHINGS.

passwords ...

4. RECOGNIZE POTENTIAL HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH HOME APPLIANCES AND FURNISHINGS.

CARBON MONOXIDE	*A very poisonous gas; odorless, tasteless, and colorless*
GROUND	*A body which is designed to conduct electricity away from one object to another to limit the voltage of a circuit*
MICROWAVE	*An electromagnetic wave*
PACEMAKER	*A mechanical device inserted into the body to regulate the heart beat*
RADIATION	*Rays sent out from atoms and molecules as they undergo internal change*
VOLTAGE	*Amount of electrical potential*

Ready to Move On ?

Do You Know the Passwords ?

Safety

How much is safety worth to you, the consumer? Should all consumers pay higher prices to buy a product that is reasonably safe? Or should those who are willing to take a chance, or who are unaware of the risks, be able to buy a cheaper, but hazardous, product -- even when safer models are available? These are questions that the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) considers. Then they develop safety standards for some products known to cause a large number of injuries.

Consider the following situations. Which situations seem REASONABLE to you? Which situations seem UNREASONABLE to you? Should we have government standards regulating such situations? Why? Why not?

1. Tracy goes to buy a new pick-up truck. She has looked forward to buying a new truck for months. She has saved the money to purchase a truck--just like she wants. Now, in the showroom, the salesperson tells her she must pay an extra $400 because of government required air pollution equipment. It's the law. Tracy is angry. She doesn't want the equipment, doesn't want to pay the $400, and doesn't care about air pollution. She lives in a rural region!

2. Bill is out to get a new lawnmower. His is shot! The new mowers have a lot of guards, and the blade doesn't spin as fast as on his old mower. These are new safety requirements by the government. Bill decides to buy a used-rebuilt mower with the faster blade and no guards. He saves $80.00.

3. Due to a financial set-back, Bill has to sell his home and move into an apartment. He doesn't need his mower and offers it for sale. He doesn't inform potential buyers of the mower that it lacks safety guards and is faster than mowers currently on the market.

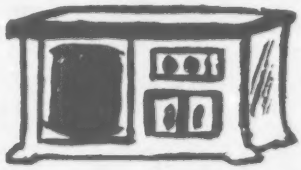
4. Sally wants a new hair dryer. To save $6.00 she buys one without a safety seal on the appliance and its cord. She thinks that she has been a wise consumer.

It would be impossible to make every product completely safe under all conditions of use. Most consumers are willing to pay a reasonable price for protection against unnecessary hazards. Such a price is preferable to the costs associated with deaths and injuries from unsafe products.

Let's examine a few of the home appliances and furnishings that may present hazards to the consumer.

Televisions- Microwave Ovens

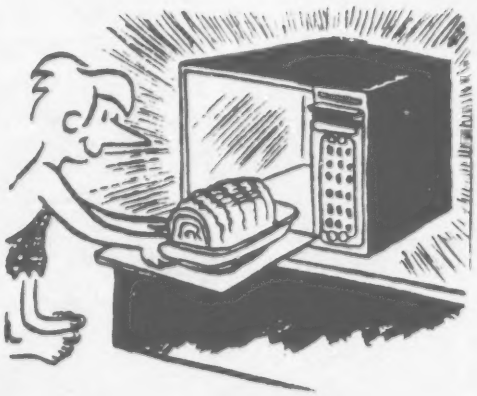
Appliances which deserve special consideration when discussing safety are those which use radiation in their operation. The most common ones are televisions and microwave ovens. These types of appliances are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. Performance standards are carefully prescribed for the safety and health of the public. Instructions for the use of any radiation-emitting appliances should be followed closely.[104]



Later model televisions have been designed to protect the consumer from harmful radiation.[104] However, because of their newness, much confusion may still exist regarding the use and safety of microwave ovens.

Following are some facts on microwave ovens:

1. Cook only in containers recommended for use in microwave ovens.
2. Microwave ovens increase temperatures rapidly and, therefore, cook foods more quickly. The nutritional value of foods does not change any more than with conventional methods of cooking.
3. At one time, microwave ovens (as well as electric shavers, automobile ignition systems, and other electronic products) interfered with heart pacemakers. However, this problem has largely been resolved. Pacemakers have been redesigned to shield out electromagnetic interference.
4. Microwave ovens <u>can</u> <u>leak</u> if improperly made or used. The following suggestions are given for microwave users:



FOLLOW MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY.

EXAMINE THE OVEN FOR DAMAGE IN SHIPPING.

DO NOT OPERATE THE OVEN IF THE DOOR DOESN'T CLOSE PROPERLY.

CLEAN THE OVEN FREQUENTLY.

HAVE THE OVEN SERVICED ONLY BY QUALIFIED REPAIRMEN.

NEVER INSERT ARTICLES THROUGH THE DOOR GRILL OR AROUND THE DOOR SEAL.

NEVER TAMPER WITH OR INACTIVATE THE OVEN SAFETY INTERLOCKS. THESE INTERLOCKS SHUT OFF RADIATION AUTOMATICALLY AS THE OVEN DOORS ARE OPENED.[7,98]

Lawn Mowers

Lawn-mowing accidents account for more than 160,000 injuries annually. 60,000 injuries need hospital emergency room treatment.[53] Approximately sixty-eight percent of the injuries occur when someone touches a moving mower blade. Relatively simple design changes could cause the blades to stop turning whenever the user left the mowing position. This would greatly reduce the number of injuries. The redesigned mower, however, would cost more, as much as one-third more than the present cost for a typical lawn mower![53]

Being SAFETY CONSCIOUS while doing yard work could save you the agony and expense of injuries. Common injuries are cuts to hands, feet, or toes from contact with rotating or cutting blades. Sometimes blindness or other injuries are caused by objects propelled from the mower's discharge chute. Occasionally, burns may result from fires caused by power mower fuel. There may even be a hearing loss from exposure to excessive noise.

The CPSC has offered a number of suggestions for power lawn mower and hedge trimmer safety. These include the following:

* BUY CAREFULLY. A LAWN MOWER SHOULD HAVE SAFETY SHIELDS BUILT INTO IT TO DEFLECT OBJECTS AWAY FROM THE OPERATOR. HEDGE TRIMMERS SHOULD HAVE CUTTING TEETH AND GUARDS SO CLOSE TOGETHER THAT YOU CANNOT PUT YOUR FINGER BETWEEN THEM.

* READ THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE USING.

* NEVER ALLOW YOUNG CHILDREN TO OPERATE THE EQUIPMENT. KEEP THEM AWAY FROM THE AREA WHEN YOU'RE MOWING OR TRIMMING.

* RAKE AWAY WIRES, CANS, ROCKS, AND TWIGS BEFORE YOU START MOWING.

* NEVER OPERATE THE MOWER IN BARE FEET OR SANDALS. NEVER MOW A WET LAWN. YOU COULD SLIP AND BE CUT BY THE ROTATING BLADE.

* DON'T SMOKE AROUND A POWER MOWER. THE GASOLINE FUMES CAN EASILY IGNITE.

* USE A THREE-WIRE EXTENSION CORD FOR TRIMMERS HAVING THREE-PRONG PLUGS. MAKE SURE THEY ARE PROPERLY GROUNDED.

* FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPER MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE.[72, 73]

Stairs and Doors

Each year, approximately one-third of a million Americans need emergency room treatment for injuries involving stairs, ramps, and landings. Another one-half million are injured in accidents involving doors, windows, and floors.

There is not much that manufacturers can do here for your safety, but you can! Locate doors so that they do not open into a hallway or other frequently used area. An unsuspecting person can be painfully injured if a door is opened just as he walks by. Equally dangerous is a door that swings open over a flight of stairs. Use extreme caution around doors made of glass or containing a glass window. Keep all stair steps clear of clutter -- anything that could cause a fall. Make sure stairs are adequately lighted. Slippery floors are also dangerous. (See CPSC Fact Sheets for more safety suggestions.)[23,32,67,68,88]

Heaters

Any unvented fuel-burning appliance, including gas stoves, produce potentially deadly levels of carbon monoxide. To be safe, have all home fuel-burning equipment inspected yearly by an expert to keep it operating efficiently and properly vented. All fuel-burning heaters should be vented to the outside of the house. If you must use an unvented heater, be sure to leave a window open at least one inch. Turn off unvented heaters at night! Carbon monoxide is tasteless, odorless, and can't be seen -- but it can kill!

Heaters also present the hazards of electrical shocks and fire. Use and maintain all heaters with care.[8,14,87]

Baby Furniture

Babies need protection. Be especially careful when buying any furnishings or equipment for baby's use. Here are some considerations:

Cribs:

Look for slats no more than 2 3/8 inches apart -- too narrow for baby's head to squeeze through. Use a mattress snug enough so that you cannot insert more than two fingers between the mattress and crib. Make sure the sides are high enough to prevent the baby from rolling out of bed. Use only non-toxic paint if refinishing the surface.

Walkers:

Look for stability -- so the walker won't tip over when the baby leans to one side. Make sure any parts that could injure are covered. The walker should have locking devices to prevent collapsing. Allow use only on flat, smooth surfaces. Prevent access to stairs. Supervise use carefully.

High Chairs:

Check for stability. Use restraining straps for the child. Be sure that the tray locks securely in place. Keep far enough away from the table or counter so a child can't push off from it. Discourage the child from being quite active. Supervise use carefully.

Toy Boxes Or Toy Chests:

Avoid ones with sharp edges, rough areas, or lids that could shut on the child. Look for ventilation holes if you want a chest with a lid that closes completely. Encourage the use of a toy chest to keep floors free of clutter, possibly avoiding falls.

Baby Carriers:

Look for sturdy materials, firm supports, stable base, safety strap, and a non-skid bottom surface.

Playpens:

Mesh-sided playpens should have mesh that's too small to catch baby buttons or to be used as a ladder. Slats should not be more than 2 3/8 inches apart.

Look for similar safety factors in selecting other baby furnishings and equipment.[3,12,46,50,54,90]

Electrical Appliances

Most of us take electricity for granted. Our homes are filled with electrical appliances which keep us warm, cook our food, wash our clothes, give us light, provide us entertainment, etc. But each year, according to estimates by the CPSC, thousands of people are injured by electrical fires or shocks. Hundreds of people die in these accidents.

Any electrical appliance can be dangerous, even those we use daily and take for granted. For instance, a dishwasher could continue to operate after the door is opened and release hot water, causing burns and eye injuries. Or, you might get a shock along with your breakfast toast. Always be careful when using electrical appliances. Keep in mind the following rules:

ALWAYS BUY EQUIPMENT THAT HAS BEEN SAFETY-TESTED. LOOK FOR A LABEL SIGNIFYING APPROVAL BY A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED TESTING AGENCY.

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW ALL MANUFACTURERS' DIRECTIONS FOR INSTALLATION AND USE.

DON'T LET ANYTHING ELECTRICAL GET WET, FOR THIS CAUSES SHOCKS. BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL IF USING HAIR DRYERS, STYLERS, ETC., IN THE BATHROOM.

MAJOR APPLIANCES SHOULD BE INSTALLED AND REPAIRED BY PROFESSIONAL SERVICEMEN.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES TO INSURE COMPLIANCE WITH PROPER VOLTAGE AND NECESSARY "GROUNDING" PROCEDURES.

PERIODICALLY CHECK ALL APPLIANCES FOR LOOSE CONNECTIONS, WORN CORDS, ETC.

NEVER DISREGARD ANY SIGN OF TROUBLE—OVERHEATING, SPARKING, STALLING, DIMINISHING POWER OR STRANGE SOUNDS. DISCONNECT THE APPLIANCE IF YOU FEEL THE SLIGHTEST SHOCK. THESE ARE WARNINGS TO MAKE REPAIRS OR REPLACEMENTS.

HOME AND LAWN TOOLS SHOULD BE USED ONLY AS DIRECTED. THEY SHOULD NEVER BE USED BY CHILDREN WITHOUT SUPERVISION.

The CPSC offers safety suggestions for specific electrical appliances. You may want to contact them for more information.[15, 16, 36, 74]

DISTINGUISHING FACT AND OPINION

When buying products, we find that people are sending us messages that they want us to believe. The first step in deciding whether to believe something is to separate statements of FACT and statements of OPINION.

Let's look at two examples of statements made in a discussion:

1. Effective 1984, federal regulations will require U.S. automobile manufactures to increase by at least twenty-five percent the fuel efficiency of all mass production automobiles.

2. The increase in the fuel efficiency of automobiles will cause more air pollution problems in the world.

The first statement is a factual one (whether it is true or false is a separate question). We can check out that first statement by looking for evidence. The second statement offers an opinion -- the speaker's interpretation or value judgement.

READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS. WRITE F BEFORE THOSE WHICH ARE FACTUAL STATEMENTS (WHETHER TRUE OR FALSE). WRITE O BEFORE STATEMENT OF OPINION.

____ 1. "Safety is the right of all who consume products made in America."

_____ 2. "Microwave ovens are capable of emitting radiation."

_____ 3. "LP gas is great, especially in an outdoor grill tank."

_____ 4. "Doors and stairs are places in the home where many accidents occur."

_____ 5. "More than 160,000 lawnmower accidents occur annually."

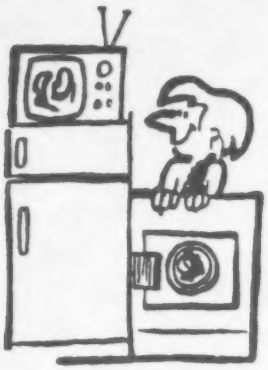
_____ 6. "Clean your oven frequently."

_____ 7. "You can always tell safety-tested electric equipment by the Underwriter's Laboratory Label."

_____ 8. "All fuel-burning heaters should be vented to the outside of any building."

_____ 9. "Carbon monoxide in sufficient concentrations can kill a human being."

_____10. "Lead in paint on children's toys and children's furniture was a source of accidental death for children."



4. RECOGNIZE POTENTIAL HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH HOME APPLIANCES AND FURNISHINGS.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. Why is it important to properly maintain and use microwave ovens?

2. Name three things you can do to possibly avoid injuries while using a power lawn mower.

3. Why are fuel-burning appliances or heaters potentially quite dangerous?

4. Why is it important to be extra cautious when selecting baby furniture and equipment?

5. Name three things you can do to possibly avoid electrical shocks when using electrical appliances.

6. Again, consider the three-way responsibility for product safety. What could each (GOVERNMENT, MANUFACTURER, and the CONSUMER) do to reduce the 65,000 yearly emergency room visits for injuries from accidents associated with ladders? [58]

7. Falls are responsible for almost one-half of all home deaths. More than two-thirds of these deaths are accounted for by people at least seventy-five years old.[47] Pretend your great-grandmother is coming for a visit. Look around your home. Name some things you could do to eliminate hazards which could cause a possibly fatal fall.

8. Thousands of injuries and deaths are caused by upholstered furniture fires and the generated smoke and toxic gases. Often the fire is started by cigarettes. Sometimes the furniture is placed too close to a heat source.[94] Again, look around your home. What are some things you can do to avoid such hazards?

Companies Continue to Distort and
fy Reports on Product
Recalls
Could
Cause Cancer
Experts Tell . . .
How to Get Your Money Back If You
Defective Goods
What Price Safety?
To Find Accelerator Flaw
DETROIT (UPI) — The Ford
March 24, 1976, are being called back
to dealers for inspection.
Nearly all Ford, Lincoln and
Mercury models are involved in the
recall, including the Ranchero model.
The sporty Mustang II and Capri
models were not being recalled
said.
Included in the recall
cars sold in the United
Canada and 2,900
Motor Co. Wednesday said it was
recalling nearly one-half million 1976
model cars in which drivers might
find themselves still accelerating
even after the gas pedal is released.
It was the largest safety campaign
by the No. 2 automaker since it
recalled 842,000 cars in 1972 because
of a power steering defect. The record
recall was by General Motors and
involved 6.7 million 1965-69 Chev.
CLEANI
SUPPL
Safety tests
for toys get
panel's OK
142-198
CPSC ISSUES WARNING
ON HAZARDOUS BABY RAT
United Press International Dispatch

CAUTIOUS CONSUMERS:

5. UNDERSTAND DANGERS OF CHEMICALS CONTAINED IN HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS.

passwords ...

5. UNDERSTAND DANGERS OF CHEMICALS CONTAINED IN HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS.

AEROSOL	*A container in which gas under pressure dispenses liquid in the form of a spray or foam*
ANTIDOTE	*A treatment to counteract poison*
CHLOROFLUOROCARBON	*A propellant used in aerosols*
FLAMMABLE	*Capable of catching fire easily and burning quickly*
IGNITE	*To set on fire*
INDUCE	*To bring about; to cause*
OZONE LAYER	*An atmospheric layer of gas which absorbs ultraviolet radiation*
PESTICIDE	*A substance designed to kill insects and other pests*
SIPHON	*To transfer liquid through a tube from one container to another*
VAPOR	*Gas released from a liquid or solid*
VENTILATE	*To expose to fresh air*

Ready to Move On ?

Do You Know the Passwords ?

Cleaning Products and Pesticides

Modern American homes abound with numerous types of household products containing chemicals. We use cleaning products to keep our houses bright and shining. Pesticide products help us maintain a "bug-free" environment. Health and grooming products keep us bright, shining, and "bug-free," too.

There is no question that household chemicals are important aids to maintaining a home. They are safe and effective when used as directed. Unfortunately, these products often contain toxic substances. When misused, they can can cause illness or death, especially to children.

When household chemicals enter the home, it is the responsibility of the consumer to make sure they are properly stored and used. The consumer must make sure that no one -- adults, children, or even pets -- accidentally swallows any of the contents or misuses the chemicals in a way to cause injury. This is your responsibility!

There are approximately 75,000 poisonings each year from pesticide products. In addition, injuries from laundry cleaning and polishing products number three times as many. The majority of poisonings occur in children under five years old.[18]

The following rules should be observed to prevent such tragedies:

1) KEEP ALL CLEANING PRODUCTS AND PESTICIDES OUT OF CHILDREN'S REACH, PREFERABLY LOCKED UP WHEN NOT IN USE.

2) LABEL SUCH PRODUCTS CLEARLY. NEVER STORE THEM IN UNMARKED CONTAINERS -- ESPECIALLY CONTAINERS NORMALLY USED FOR FOOD OR DRINK. ADULTS, AS WELL AS CHILDREN, HAVE BEEN POISONED WHEN SUCH SWITCHES HAVE BEEN MADE. ALSO, KEEP THEM AWAY FROM FOOD AND COOKING UTENSILS.

3) READ DIRECTIONS AND FOLLOW THEM! MANY PROBLEMS ARISE FROM MISUSE.

4) CAP SUCH PRODUCTS TIGHTLY. MANY CONTAINERS NOW HAVE "CHILD-PROOF" CAPS TO ASSIST IN PREVENTING ACCIDENTS.

5) IF SUCH PRODUCTS SHOULD BE ACCIDENTALLY SWALLOWED, READ LABEL DIRECTIONS FOR ANTIDOTES. CALL A PHYSICIAN OR POISON CONTROL CENTER. DO NOT AUTOMATICALLY INDUCE VOMITING AS SOME SUBSTANCES COULD BURN THE THROAT EVEN MORE THEN.

6) MANY PRODUCTS, ESPECIALLY PESTICIDES, CAN BE ABSORBED THROUGH THE SKIN IF USED INCORRECTLY. BE AWARE OF THIS DANGER. TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST IT AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PRODUCT'S MANUFACTURER.

7) HAVE HANDY THE PHONE NUMBER OF YOUR NEAREST DOCTOR, POISON CONTROL CENTER, HOSPITAL, AND POLICE.

8) WORK WITH HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS IN A WELL-VENTILATED AREA. SOME PRODUCTS GIVE OFF FUMES THAT MAY BE DANGEROUS IN HIGH CONCENTRATIONS.

9) SOME PRODUCTS ARE HAZARDOUS IF MIXED TOGETHER. FOR EXAMPLE, CHLORINE BLEACH MIXED WITH AMMONIA, TOILET BOWL CLEANERS, OR DRAIN CLEANERS MAY RELEASE HAZARDOUS GASES WHICH CAN KILL YOU.[51,63,70,101,107]

Aerosol Products

One type of popular product which may cause damage to both the environment and our health is the product packaged in an aerosol container. The CPSC has estimated that each year nearly 5,000 people require emergency room treatment for injuries associated with aerosols.[2]

Aerosol hair sprays have been shown to cause lung disease and respiratory problems. Eyes may be irritated by aerosol sprays. Inhaling heavy concentrations of aerosol propellants can cause death. Aerosol containers can explode if punctured or heated.[2,24]

An even more far-reaching danger may be the damage to the atmosphere caused by the use of aerosol products. Many prominent scientists contend that the gases released by aerosols--in particular, chlorofluorocarbons--are reducing the effectiveness of the ozone layer in protecting the earth from excessive ultraviolet radiation. This could result in a rise in the cases of skin cancer.[24] Effective December 15, 1978, chlorofluorocarbons were banned for most uses.

To avoid aerosol hazards, you may want to purchase non-aerosol containers when such alternatives are available. However, if you must use aerosols, try to eliminate the immediate hazards -- explosion, flammability, and toxicity:

* STORE THE CONTAINER IN A COOL LOCATION. DISPOSE OF THE EMPTY CONTAINER WITH OTHER <u>NON-BURNABLE</u> TRASH.

* NEVER PUNCTURE ANY AEROSOL CONTAINER, EVEN ONE YOU THINK IS "EMPTY." THERE CAN STILL BE ENOUGH PRESSURE IN IT TO CAUSE AN EXPLOSION.

* DON'T USE AEROSOLS NEAR ANY FLAMES OR HEATING SOURCES. THE PROPELLANTS AND "USABLE CONTENTS" ARE HIGHLY FLAMMABLE. EVEN SMOKING WHILE USING A CAN OF HAIRSPRAY HAS BEEN REPORTED TO IGNITE THE SPRAY, SEVERELY DISFIGURING THE USER.

* AEROSOL CONTENTS ARE TOXIC. USE ONLY AS DIRECTED AND IN WELL-VENTILATED AREAS, AWAY FROM FOOD. AEROSOLS CONTAINING QUITE DANGEROUS PROPELLANTS ARE REQUIRED TO CARRY A WARNING. DELIBERATELY CONCENTRATING AND INHALING THE CONTENTS COULD BE HARMFUL OR FATAL.[2]

Flammable Liquids

Many Americans are injured or killed yearly because they are not aware of the potential dangers of common household products. Especially hazardous are flammable products. Gasoline, cleaning fluids, lighter fluids, thinners, paints, varnish, shellac, and charcoal lighters are just a few products found in the home that can burn or explode.

Take the following precautions to prevent painful burning or death:

-- GASOLINE CAUSES MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF ALL ACCIDENTS INVOLVING FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS. NEVER STORE GASOLINE IN THE TRUNK OF YOUR CAR. A COLLISION COULD CREATE A FATAL FIRE OR EXPLOSION OR CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY!

-- VAPORS FROM MANY FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS CAN BE IGNITED BY A DISTANT SPARK OR FLAME SUCH AS A PILOT LIGHT OR CIGARETTE.

-- KEEP FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS OUT OF CHILDREN'S REACH.

-- STORE FLAMMABLES IN A WELL-VENTILATED AREA AWAY FROM FLAME SOURCE.

-- BUY ONLY WHAT YOU NEED. HAVING EXCESSES OF FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS AROUND IS ASKING FOR TROUBLE.

-- STORE IN TIGHTLY CAPPED, NON-BREAKABLE, CLEARLY LABELED CONTAINERS. NEVER STORE GASOLINE IN GLASS CONTAINERS.

-- DO NOT SIPHON GAS BY MOUTH. A SMALL AMOUNT OF ANY LIQUID IN YOUR LUNGS CAN BE FATAL! IF ACCIDENTAL SWALLOWING SHOULD HAPPEN. DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING. CALL A PHYSICIAN AT ONCE.

-- WHEN BARBECUING, USE ONLY A LIQUID ESPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR CHARCOAL STARTING. DON'T ADD MORE STARTER AFTER THE FLAME IS IGNITED. FLAMES MIGHT TRAVEL UP THE CAN AND CAUSE AN EXPLOSION.

-- DO NOT FILL TANKS OF GASOLINE-POWERED EQUIPMENT (LIKE POWER MOWERS) WHILE ENGINES ARE RUNNING OR ARE HOT. ALLOW COOLING BEFORE REFUELING.

-- USE FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS IN WELL-VENTILATED AREAS TO PREVENT A BUILD-UP OF THEIR HIGHLY FLAMMABLE AND OFTEN TOXIC VAPORS.[22, 38, 62]

CONSUMER BE AWARE

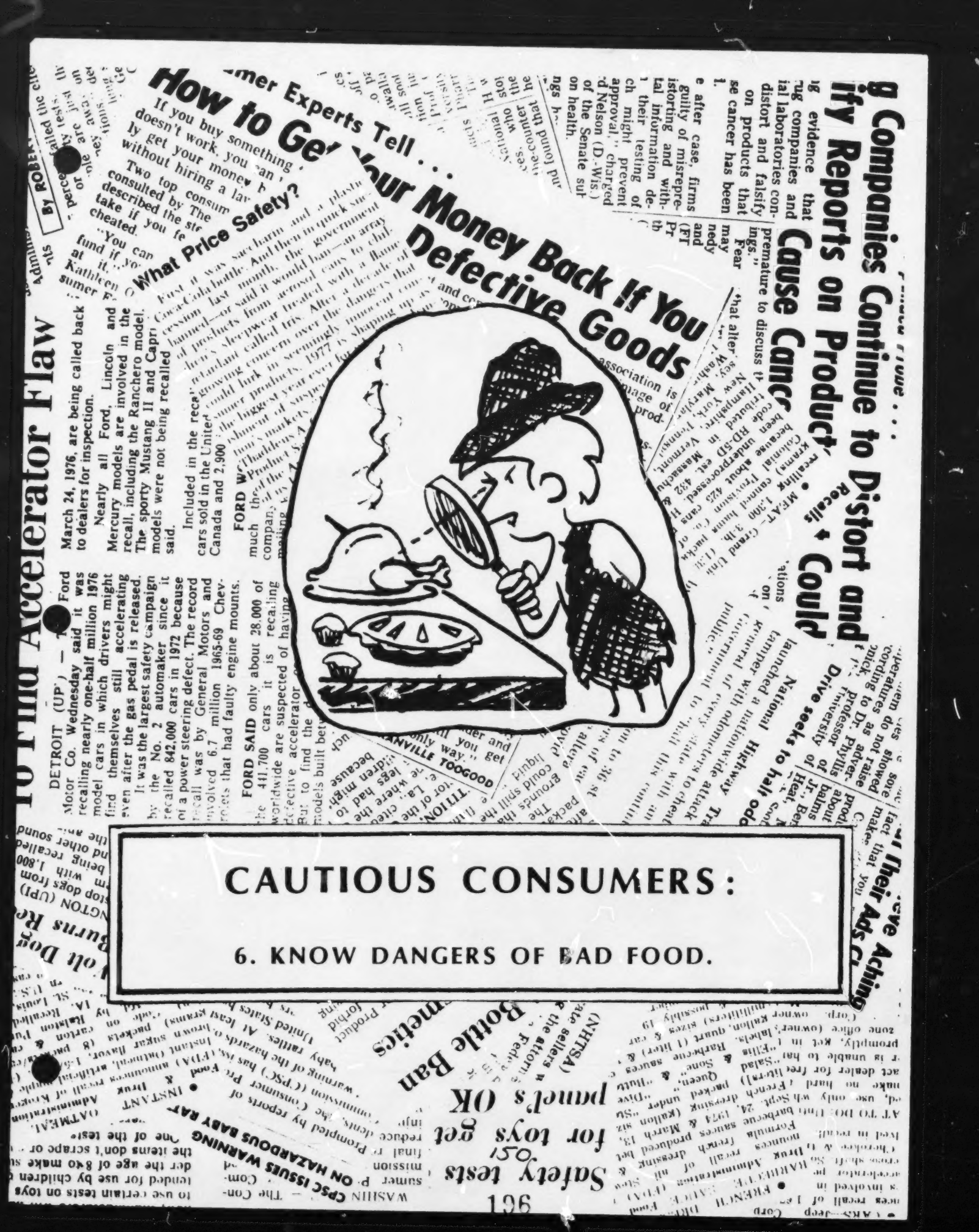
NEVER USE A CHARCOAL GRILL INSIDE A CLOSED GARAGE OR HOUSE. HIGH LEVELS OF CARBON MONOXIDE RELEASED BY BURNING CHARCOAL CAN CAUSE DIZZINESS, NAUSEA, CONVULSIONS, AND EVEN DEATH. YOU CAN'T SEE, TASTE, OR SMELL CARBON MONOXIDE, BUT IT KILLS!

5. UNDERSTAND DANGERS OF CHEMICALS CONTAINED IN HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS.

TRUE	FALSE		
____	____	1.	Gasoline is the cause of the majority of accidents caused by flammable liquids.
____	____	2.	In order to burn, a flammable liquid must be ignited by a direct flame.
____	____	3.	Gasoline should be stored in glass containers.
____	____	4.	Always use and store flammable liquids in well-ventilated areas to prevent a build-up of flammable vapors.
____	____	5.	"Child-proof" caps should be placed on pesticides, cleaning products, and other dangerous household products.
____	____	6.	Pesticides may be absorbed through the skin causing illness or death.
____	____	7.	Puncturing an aerosol container could cause an explosion.
____	____	8.	Some propellants previously used in aerosols could cause a change in the earth's atmosphere.
____	____	9.	Mixing household cleaning products together is a safe way to get a sparkling home.
____	____	10.	If a toxic chemical is accidentally swallowed, you should always induce vomiting immediately.

A. Go on a "Chemical Hazard Hunt" throughout your home. What chemicals did you find? Were they stored correctly? If not, what could you do to eliminate hazards associated with the chemical products?

B. Did you ever consider that using a common product -- such as a can of deodorant or hair spray -- could have far-reaching effects into the earth's atmosphere? In such an instance, do you feel the government had the right to ban the use of chlorofluorocarbons?


How to Get Your Money Back If You Defective Goods
What Price Safety?
To Find Accelerator Flaw
Companies Continue to Distort and
Cause Cancer
Safety tests for toys get panel's OK
CAUTIOUS CONSUMERS:
6. KNOW DANGERS OF BAD FOOD.

passwords ...

6. KNOW DANGERS OF BAD FOOD

BACTERIA	*One-celled microorganisms that may cause disease*
BOTULISM	*Disease that may be caused by poison or toxin in improperly preserved foods; characterized by muscular paralysis, including disturbances of vision and breathing*
ENVIRONMENT	*Total surroundings*
PARALYSIS	*Loss of ability to move or feel*
RANCID	*Type of spoilage; having a bad taste or smell*
SANITATION	*Use of hygienic measures*

Ready to Move On ?

Do You Know the Passwords ?

P151

FOOD POISONING BACTERIA ARE EVERYWHERE, WAITING TO INVADE YOUR KITCHEN. PUT THE "FOOD FELONS" ON YOUR UNWANTED LIST!

Poor food-handling practices in the home often cause illness in the family, even though the foods were safe to eat when purchased or first prepared. Lack of sanitation, insufficient cooking, and improper storage can allow bacteria in food to increase to dangerous levels.

There are four common causes of food poisoning--Salmonella, Clostridium perfringens, Staphylococcus, and Clostridium botulinum. Don't be shaken by the big names. These are simple, one-celled organisms that multiply by dividing. To divide, they need food, warmth, and moisture. These bacteria are present everywhere--in the environment and in foods. It's up to you to protect yourself and your family from them. Let's examine each type of bacteria more closely.

TYPE OF BACTERIA	WHERE FOUND	SYMPTOMS	SAFEGUARDS
SALMONELLA	RAW MEATS, POULTRY EGGS, DAIRY PRODUCTS FISH	HEADACHE, FEVER, ABDOMINAL DISCOMFORT, DIARRHEA, VOMITING, APPEAR WITHIN 24 HRS., LAST 2-4 DAYS	DESTROYED BY HEAT; USE MEAT THERMOMETER AND COOK THOROUGHLY; DO NOT LET RAW FOODS CONTAMINATE COOKED ONES
STAPHYLOCOCCUS	ON HUMAN SKIN AND IN NOSE AND THROAT; IN RAW MEAT	ABDOMINAL CRAMPS, DIARRHEA, AND VOMITING, APPEAR WITHIN 2-4 HRS., MAY LAST 2 DAYS	FOLLOW PROPER SANITATION PROCEDURES
CLOSTRIDIUM PERFRINGENS	IN SOIL, DUST, FOOD, AND INTESTINAL TRACTS OF PEOPLE AND WARM-BLOODED ANIMALS	DIARRHEA, ABDOMINAL PAIN; APPEAR ABOUT 12 HRS. AFTER EATING	DO NOT LET FOOD STAND AT ROOM TEMPERATURE; THOROUGHLY HEAT AND BOIL IF COOKED THE DAY BEFORE
CLOSTRIDIUM BOTULINUM	THROUGHOUT THE ENVIRONMENT, BUT HARMLESS UNLESS GIVEN THE RIGHT CONDITIONS TO MULTIPLY	DOUBLE VISION, INABILITY TO SWALLOW, DIFFICULTY IN SPEAKING, PROGRESSIVE PARALYSIS OF THE THROAT AND LUNGS; APPEAR 12-36 HRS. AFTER EATING; MUST HAVE DOCTOR'S CARE; CAN BE FATAL	CAN FOODS PROPERLY, AND HEAT ALL CANNED FOODS TO BOILING FOR 5-10 MINUTES; INSPECT ALL CANS BEFORE OPENING; AVOID BENT, BROKEN, OR BULGING CANS; LOOK FOR LEAKY SEALS; IF IN DOUBT, DO NOT EVEN TASTE THE CONTENTS! IT TAKES ONLY A SMALL AMOUNT OF BOTULISM TOXIN TO BE FATAL!

25, 26, 48, 55, 103

(B) 152

Food is a product we all must buy! While it is impossible to always judge if food is "good," here are some basic rules to follow that may help keep the FOOD FELONS away from you:

STORE FOOD ONLY FOR THE RECOMMENDED LENGTH OF TIME. NOTICE IN THE CHART THAT GROUND MEAT (HAMBURGER) SHOULD BE EATEN WITHIN 48 HOURS, EVEN IF IT IS REFRIGERATED. LARGER CUTS OF MEAT SUCH AS ROAST OR STEAK ARE GOOD ONLY UP TO 3 OR 5 DAYS IN THE REFRIGERATOR.

STORE CANNED GOODS IN A DRY PLACE AT MODERATELY COOL TEMPERATURES. AVOID STORAGE NEAR STEAM PIPES, RADIATORS, FURNACES, AND KITCHEN RANGES. TRY TO "TURNOVER" CANNED GOODS ONCE A YEAR.

BULGING CANS WHICH SQUIRT WHEN OPENED ARE UNSAFE! THEY MAY HAVE BOTULISM POISON. NEVER EVEN OPEN A SWOLLEN OR SEVERELY DENTED CAN.

DON'T STORE FRUIT JUICES IN COPPER OR SILVER CONTAINERS -- AN ACID REACTION CAN OCCUR.

REFRIGERATE LEFTOVERS PROMPTLY!

DON'T DEPEND ON SMELL TO TELL IF FOOD IS UNSAFE TO EAT!

RESIST ANY TEMPTATION TO TASTE FOOD THAT SEEMS RANCID. YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO SWALLOW THE FOOD TO BE POISONED BY CERTAIN TYPES OF BACTERIA.

Storing Chart

PRODUCT	*STORAGE PERIOD (To maintain its quality)*	
	Refrigerator 35° to 40° F. DAYS	*Freezer 0° F. MONTHS*
FRESH MEATS		
Roasts (Beef and Lamb)	3 to 5	8 to 12
Roasts (Pork and Veal)	3 to 5	4 to 8
Steaks (Beef)	3 to 5	8 to 12
Chops (Lamb and Pork)	3 to 5	3 to 4
Ground and Stew Meats	1 to 2	2 to 3
Variety Meats	1 to 2	3 to 4
Sausage (Pork)	1 to 2	1 to 2
PROCESSED MEATS		
Bacon	7	1
Frankfurters	7	½
Ham (Whole)	7	1 to 2
Ham (Half)	3 to 5	1 to 2
Ham (Slices)	3	1 to 2
Luncheon Meats	3 to 5	Freezing not recommended
Sausage (Smoked)	7	
Sausage (Dry and Semi-Dry)	14 to 21	
COOKED MEATS		
Cooked Meats and Meat Dishes	1 to 2	2 to 3
Gravy and Meat Broth	1 to 2	2 to 3
FRESH POULTRY		
Chicken and Turkey	1 to 2	12
Duck and Goose	1 to 2	6
Giblets	1 to 2	3
COOKED POULTRY		
Pieces (Covered with Broth)	1 to 2	6
Pieces (Not Covered)	1 to 2	1
Cooked Poultry Dishes	1 to 2	6
Fried Chicken	1 to 2	4

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READ FOOD LABELS TO DETERMINE PROPER STORAGE. FOR EXAMPLE, SOME BRANDS OF GRATED PARMESAN CHEESE MUST BE REFRIGERATED, BUT OTHERS DO NOT.

#0153

WRAP ITEMS FOR FREEZING TIGHTLY IN MOISTURE-RESISTANT MATERIALS, SUCH AS FREEZER PAPER OR FOIL. REMEMBER THAT FREEZING DOES NOT KILL BACTERIA ALREADY PRESENT IN FOOD. IT SIMPLY STOPS THEIR MULTIPLICATION. THAW WITH CARE!

AVOID "CROSS-CONTAMINATION" OF BACTERIA FROM ONE FOOD TO ANOTHER FOOD. CAREFULLY WASH ALL UTENSILS BEFORE REUSING THEM.

PERIODICALLY CHECK BOTH REFRIGERATOR AND FREEZER FOR PROPER TEMPERATURE AND TIGHT DOOR CLOSINGS. IF A DOLLAR BILL CAN BE EASILY PULLED OUT OF A SHUT DOOR, THEN IT'S TIME TO REPLACE THE RUBBER INSULATION.

OBSERVE PROPER SANITATION.[19, 35, 45, 49, 85]

HERE ARE TWO TIPS TO PREVENT PRACTICALLY ALL FOODBORNE ILLNESSES:

1) *KEEP HOT FOODS ABOVE 150° F. (65° C.). KEEP COLD FOODS BELOW 40 - 45° F. (5 - 7° C.). FOOD POISONING BACTERIA CANNOT GROW AT THESE TEMPERATURE EXTREMES.*

2) *KEEP RAW AND COOKED FOODS SEPARATED.*

6. KNOW DANGERS OF BAD FOOD.

FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH THE CORRECT WORDS OR PHRASES.

1. Refrigerators need to be kept at temperatures of _____ in order to maintain food quality.

2. Ground meat is "good" for _____ days if kept in the refrigerator.

3. _____may result from tasting food from a bulging can.

4. Ms. Happ was cutting up a chicken for dinner when she was interrupted by a phone call. When she returned, she immediately began dicing boiled potatoes for a salad, using the same knife. This is an example of _____.

5. _____bacteria are normally found in poultry, eggs, dairy products, raw meat, and fish.

6. Large cuts of meat, such as steak and roast, are normally good for _____days if refrigerated.

7. Symptoms resulting from "Staph" bacteria usually appear within _____hours after eating.

A. Sometimes a picnic in the summertime can lead to food poisoning problems. What are some precautions you can take to keep the FOOD FELONS away from your picnic?

B. Many more botulism cases result from improperly home-canned foods than those commercially canned. Do you know anyone who cans foods? If so, ask them what precautions they take to make sure the food is safe to eat.

Companies Continue to Distort and
ify Reports on Product
Cause Cancer
Recalls
Could
Drive seeks to halt odom
Experts Tell . . .
ow to Ge
aur Money
What Price Safety?
Ford Accelerator Flaw
DETROIT (UPI) — Ford Motor Co. Wednesday said it was recalling nearly one-half million 1976 model cars in which drivers might find themselves still accelerating even after the gas pedal is released.
It was the largest safety campaign by the No. 2 automaker since it recalled 842,000 cars in 1972 because
March 24, 1976, are being called back to dealers for inspection.
Nearly all Ford, Lincoln and Mercury models are involved in the recall, including the Ranchero model. The sporty Mustang II and Capri models were not being recalled said.
FROZEN FOODS
CAUTIOUS CONSUMERS:
7. KNOW INFORMATION TO BE FOUND ON PRODUCT LABELS.

passwords ...

7. KNOW INFORMATION TO BE FOUND ON PRODUCT LABELS.

DRY CLEAN	*To clean with something other than water, often a chemical preparation*
LABEL	*Something attached to a product for the purpose of identifying it*
LEGIBLE	*Easy to read*
NET WEIGHT	*Weight of the product without the container*
NUTRIENT	*One of the more than 50 known elements of food which promotes bodily gr wth and development and regulates bodily process*

Ready to Move On ?

Do You Know the Passwords ?

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The CAUTIOUS CONSUMER depends on product labels for information on how to use the product correctly and safely. When buying, apply the following rules of label reading to assist you.

ON CLOTHING,

-- Labels must tell the necessary methods of caring for the garment (wash, dry clean, etc.). Such a label must remain legible for the useful life of the garment.[21]

-- Labels must tell if the material will catch fire easily. Children's sleepwear (up to size 14) must be "flame-retardant" and labeled as such. Always follow the care instructions to maintain the flame retardant qualities.[60]

ON LARGE APPLIANCES,

-- Tags or booklets often take the place of labels on large appliances. Information should include proper instructions for use. It should tell the proper electrical current to use and how to clean and care for the product.

-- Sometimes labels list energy information -- such as water comsumption on washing machines or dishwashers.

ON OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICINES,

-- Labels give general information. They identify the product and tell what symptoms the product will relieve. Labels tell the net quantity of contents and the active ingredients. The manufacturer is also identified.

-- Labels give directions for taking the medicine. They should also give warnings and proper precautions.[96]

ON PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES,

-- Labels on prescription medicines also must state how much and how often to take the medicine. It is particularly important to understand these directions because prescription medicines often contain potent drugs which can be especially dangerous if used incorrectly.

-- Information such as precautions and possible side effects is usually not on these labels. This type of information must come from the physician.[96]

ON COSMETICS,

-- Most ingredients must be listed by name and in the order of weight. The names of specific fragrances or flavors do not have to be listed.

-- Can be labeled "hypo-allergenic" (or words to that effect) only if scientific studies show it causes significantly fewer reactions than other products used for similar purposes.

-- Must carry a warning if the safety of the cosmetic has not been determined.

-- The labeling requirement went into effect in April, 1977.[81]

What you don't know can hurt you!

ON FOOD PRODUCTS,

-- Labels on most foods must tell the ingredients, listed in order of weight from largest to smallest amounts. For example, if you buy chicken soup and the first ingredient listed is water, you're getting more water than chicken. Foods which have a standard that governs them do not have to list any ingredients except certain optional ingredients added by the manufacturer. Examples of such foods are catsup, ice cream, chocolate, and mayonnaise.

-- Labels must tell net weight. This is the weight of the product without the container. Comparing net weights is a good method for comparing prices.

-- Labels sometimes tell the amount of nutrients or the U.S. Recommended Daily Allowances which person needs to eat to stay healthy. This information must be stated on any food to which a nutrient has been added or for which a nutritional claim is made. Examples of such foods include breads and cereals. Many manufacturers put nutrition information on products even if not required to do so. Nutrition labels may be a help to consumers in planning balanced meals.[84,99]

ON PESTICIDES AND HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS,

-- Non-food products such as pesticides or household cleaning aids should tell whether or not they are poisonous. They should give directions on what to do if the product is swallowed. The directions for use should also be stated. The active ingredients of pesticide products must be shown.[20]

ON TOYS AND CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS,

-- Labels should give such information as the age group it is intended for and directions for use. They should tell any needed "extras" (such as batteries required) and safety factors (such as "nontoxic" on painted products.)[28]

ON CIGARETTES,

-- Labeling must, by law, carry the warning that cigarette smoking has been determined "dangerous to your health." This labeling law went into effect after it was proven that the risk of cancer and other diseases increases with cigarette smoking. Further studies now reveal that even non-smokers' health is affected by inhaling the smoke of the cigarette puffer! It has been suggested that the label be rewritten: "Warning: Cigarette smoking is a major health hazard and may result in your death!"[29, 76, 8?]

BE **CAUTIOUS CONSUMERS:**

LOOK FOR PRODUCTS WITH LABELS GIVING NECESSARY

AND CLEAR INFORMATION AS TO USE, CARE, AND SAFETY

OF THE PRODUCT!

Open and Closed Cases

Many times we get some evidence and draw a conclusion. We think that the evidence we have is conclusive. But how much evidence is needed to make a firm judgment? Let's take CIGARETTES.

LIST THE BENEFITS OF SMOKING CIGARETTES --	LIST THE BAD EFFECTS AND RISKS OF SMOKING CIGARETTES --

From your research, do you have enough evidence to make a firm judgment about whether you should smoke cigarettes (A CLOSED CASE)? Is the evidence still inconclusive (AN OPEN CASE)?

RISK: Some people will make judgments about their personal habits on less evidence than others. It depends upon their attitude toward RISK-TAKING.

Given the evidence and your values, what kind of position should the government take in our society --

1. Ban the sale of cigarettes?
2. Ban the smoking of cigarettes?
3. Ban the smoking of cigarettes in public places?
4. Ban the advertising of cigarettes?
5. Warn consumers about the risks and dangers of cigarettes?
6. Let consumers make their own choices and accept the risks?

Justify your decisions in class discussion. Refer to the opening section of this PAL on risk-taking, voluntary and involuntary risks, etc.

7. KNOW INFORMATION TO BE FOUND ON PRODUCT LABELS.

NAME WHAT YOU THINK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECE OF INFORMATION THAT IS (OR NEEDS TO BE) ON LABELS OF THE FOLLOWING PRODUCTS:

1. Clothing _____
2. Medications _____
3. Food products _____
4. Pesticides _____
5. Household cleaning products _____
6. Large appliances _____
7. Small appliances _____
8. Toys _____
9. Cosmetics _____
10. Cigarettes _____

Should labeling laws be changed in any way? If so, how and why?

CAUTIOUS CONSUMERS:

8. KNOW HOW TO COMBAT UNSAFE PRODUCTS.

passwords ...

8. KNOW HOW TO COMBAT UNSAFE PRODUCTS.

COMBUSTIBLE	*Inflammable*
CORROSIVE	*A substance which causes another substance to wear*
FDA	*The Food and Drug Administration; federal agency under the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare which is responsible for the enforcement of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act*
INTERSTATE	*Between or among states*
STANDARD	*A set criterion of quality*
UNIFORM	*Always the same; not varying*

Ready to Move On ?

Do You Know the Passwords ?

I'D RATHER DO IT MYSELF.....

Read the following quotation from Abraham Lincoln:

"You cannot bring prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage-earner by pulling down the wage-payer. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves."

-- Abraham Lincoln

List product safety situations that CONSUMERS cannot handle for THEMSELVES as INDIVIDUALS:

_____

_____

_____

If individual consumers cannot handle a product safety issue or problem as an individual, what can they do?

ACTION IN GROUP LEVEL? -- example, form or join a consumer action group.

ACTION WITH COVERNMENT? -- example, get government to pass a rule.

We have discovered that all products we buy and use are not necessarily safe simply because they are available to the consumer.

However, through consumer pressure and governmental awareness, agencies have been established to assist in making products safer for consumer use. Following are two major governmental agencies which aid the consumer and their functions:

1 CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

-- Protects public from unreasonable risks of injury associated with consumer products

-- Assists consumers in evaluating product safety

-- Develops uniform safety standards for products

-- Promotes research and investigates causes and prevention of product-related deaths, illnesses, and injuries

-- Bans hazardous products in some cases

-- Does not regulate foods, drugs, cosmetics, medical devices, boats, airplanes, tobacco, firearms, alcohol, and pesticides [20, 84]

-- Enforces the following acts:

1) Flammable Fabrics Act
   Prohibits manufacturing or transportation in interstate commerce of fabrics highly flammable

2) Poison Prevention Packaging Act
   Requires special packaging to protect children from injury or illness relating to handling or swallowing household substances

3) Federal Hazardous Substances Act
   Requires proper labeling such as WARNING, DANGER, CAUTION, or KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN on toxic, corrosive, or combustible products

4) Refrigerator Safety Act
   Makes it illegal to manufacture or transport in interstate commerce any household refrigerator unless it is equipped with a device which allows it to be opened from the inside

2

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

-- Establishes controls over foods and medicines for man and animals, cosmetics, and medical devices; power granted by the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act

-- Establishes requirements of labeling to inform consumers of ingredients and net content; power granted by the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act

-- Protects public from unnecessary exposure to radiation from electronic products; power granted by the Radiation Control for Health and Safety Act

-- Oversees vaccines, serums, and other biological products, the sanitation in milk processing, shellfish, restaurant operations, and interstate travel facilities; power granted by the Public Health Service Act[92, 105]

READ EACH SITUATION CAREFULLY AND THEN CHECK THE AGENCY WHOSE JOB IT WOULD BE TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION.

Food and Drug Administration	Consumer Product Safety Commission	
_____	_____	1. Establishes a laboratory designed to research the causes of bicycle injuries.
_____	_____	2. Issues safety standards for Christmas tree lights.
_____	_____	3. Requires a cracker manufacturer to list the net contents of the box of crackers on the box.
_____	_____	4. Requires the aspirin bottles to have "child-proof" caps.
_____	_____	5. Checks radar ranges for radiation factors.
_____	_____	6. Requires a lipstick to be removed from the market because it contains a harmful ingredient.
_____	_____	7. Inspects interstate snack bars for sanitary practices.
_____	_____	8. Checks fabrics to determine how easily they burn.

Bulletin

Private manufacturers also regulate themselves to some degree, and many do an excellent job.

In addition, private testing agencies also try to insure product safety. Look for these emblems on products meeting specifications.[57, 95]

1.. UNDERWRITER'S LABORATORY, INC.

This emblem indicates that the product's design has been tested for fire, casualty, and electrical safety. The product has been judged to be safe for normal use.

Look for the UL acceptance symbol before purchasing any electrical appliance.

2.. AMERICAN GAS ASSOCIATION

These emblems indicate that the product complies with national standards for both construction and safe and efficient operation.

Look for the AGA symbol or seal on gas appliances.

3.. ASSOCIATION OF HOME APPLIANCE MANUFACTURERS

This seal indicates a voluntary compliance with AHAM standards of performance and safety.

Look for this seal on air conditioners, dehumidifiers, freezers, and refrigerators.

You have studied the role of federal and private agencies in protecting consumers. In addition, state and local governments have important roles. They provide information, services, inspections, and other forms of protection for consumers. Many states and cities have passed laws to protect the health, safety, and rights of citizens. Common among these are regulations on food handling, sanitation, quality standards, and safety.

However, in spite of all the precautions taken, unsafe products can and do reach the market place. Be a CAUTIOUS CONSUMER! Help prevent injuries and deaths related to products! Take measures to combat unsafe products!

Buy wisely!

READ LABELS. COMPARISON SHOP. APPLY THE SAFETY RULES YOU'VE LEARNED.

Boycott!

AVOID PRODUCTS WHICH LACK SAFETY FEATURES. TELL RETAILERS WHO STOCK SUCH PRODUCTS WHY YOU ARE BOYCOTTING THEM.

Complain!

REPORT PRODUCT-RELATED HAZARDS AND INJURIES. COMPLAIN TO THE MANUFACTURER, RETAILER, THE PROPER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY, AND POSSIBLY EVEN PRIVATE GROUPS -- SUCH AS NEWSPAPER "ACTION LINES."

Report your complaint to the Consumer Services agency in your state. In Florida, this is:

Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Division of Consumer Services
The Mayo Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Here is a list of some Federal consumer-oriented agencies:[84]

For incidents involving most consumer products (check exceptions on page 78), report to:

Check area office listing under
U.S. Government in the phone book

or

Write directly to:

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Washington, D.C. 20207

or

Call toll-free on the 24-hour hotlines
available for serious complaints:

800-638-8326
800-492-8363 (Maryland residents only)
800-638-2690 (Hotline for the deaf)

For incidents involving foods, drugs, or cosmetics, report to:

Check area office listing under
U.S. Government in the phone book

or

Write directly to:

Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20852

or

Food and Drug Administration
Division of Cosmetics Technology
200 C Street SW.
Washington, D.C. 20204

For problems with automobiles, trucks, bicycles, etc., and related equipment, report to:

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, SW.
Washington, D.C. 20590

For advertising problems and misleading fabric care and content labeling, report to:

Federal Trade Commission
Sixth and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.
Washington, D.C. 20580

For complaints concerning alcohol, tobacco, firearms, and explosives, report to:

Treasury Department
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms
Washington, D.C. 20226

8. KNOW HOW TO COMBAT UNSAFE PRODUCTS.

1. Name two governmental agencies responsible for product safety:

   _____

   _____

2. What private agency tests products for electrical safety?

   _____

3. List three things you can do to help keep unsafe products from the marketplace:

   _____

   _____

   _____

ALTHOUGH CONSUMER ACTION GROUPS MAY BE EFFECTIVE IN HELPING ELIMINATE HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS FROM THE MARKETPLACE, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO JOIN A CONSUMER GROUP TO BE A CAUTIOUS CONSUMER. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS BE AN INTELLIGENT CONSUMER, A CONCERNED CONSUMER, AND A RESPONSIBLE CONSUMER. MOST IMPORTANTLY, BE AWARE! DO NOT BELIEVE WITHOUT QUESTION ANYTHING AN ADVERTISEMENT OR LABEL TELLS YOU. DO NOT BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE PROTECTED FROM ALL HAZARDS OR THAT ANY PRODUCT IS SO SAFE YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE CAREFUL. THE CONSUMER, HIMSELF, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GREAT MAJORITY OF PRODUCT-RELATED INJURIES SIMPLY BECAUSE HE IS CARELESS. HE DOES NOT FOLLOW DIRECTIONS FOR USE, ASSEMBLY, OR MAINTENANCE. HE DOES NOT APPLY SAFETY RULES. DON'T BE A CARELESS CONSUMER! PRACTICE GOOD PRODUCT SAFETY SENSE. BE A CAUTIOUS CONSUMER!

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

I, _____, am concerned about product safety issues and problems. I have participated in the group's discussions of the problems and the goals which we feel should be pursued in order to ensure product safety for everyone.

My basic concern with product safety problems for the future is:

_____

_____

_____

_____

The goals which I believe are important are: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

At this time, I believe I can help achieve these goals by taking the following actions:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Dated _____ Signed _____

SELF - EVALUATION

1. As you reflect upon your experiences in this PAL, what would you say was the most important thing you learned about product safety?

2. What are the most important things you learned about:

   a) Your responsibility as a consumer?

   b) The responsibility of government for product safety?

   c) The responsibility of manufacturers for product safety?

3. What are important consumer education topics about which you want to know more?

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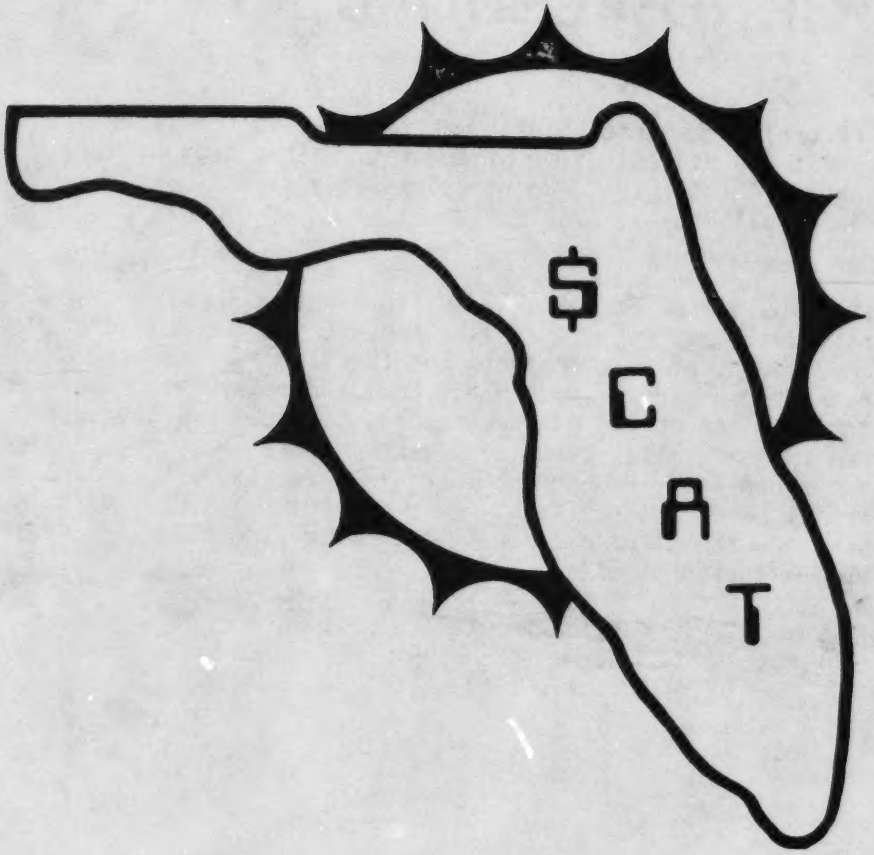

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